KABUL (R) — A Shi'ite Muslim faction threatened on Tuesday to launch Scud missiles against Afghan government forces if they did not stop their two-day-old assault on its enclave io southwestern Kabul. Abdul Ali Mazari, the leader of the Shi'ite Hezbe-Wahdal faction, told Renters he had sent a message to his ally, northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, asking for help in using the medium-range rockets. "We have 20 Scuds and three launchers, and today I sent a message to Gen. Dostum asking for technicians to come and help me set the rockets up," he said at his headquarters at Kabul's Karte Seh district, which is under attack. Mr. Rabbani's troops kept up the attack for a second straight day Tuesday. At least 30 died and 90 were injured in the fighting, according to government radio. Other factions in the multi-sided civil war are just outside the capital, including the Taliban student militia, considered the second most powerful force after the president's army. The Talibans have not been involved in the latest fighting. Kabul Radio reported Tuesday night that at least 30 civilians were killed and 90 injured during the day when Hezb-e-Wahda1 fired rockets into residential areas.

Volume 19 Number 5861

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1995, SHAWAL 7, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King visits GHQ

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AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Tuesday visited the General Headquarters and met the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Abdul Hafez Mirai. Attending the meeting were the commander of the ground forces and Gen. Mirai's assistants.

Crown Prince meets Australian minister

AMMAN (Petra) - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred in 1110hite's widowis office Tuesday with John 1110a 92 McCarthy, Australia's deputy secretary of foreign affairs and trade, and discussed Jordanian-Australian relations and the Amman economic summit meeting scheduled to be held in October. Prince Hassan also briefed Mr. McCarthy on the Middle East peace process. After the meeting Mr. McCarthy left

Queen to address Cophenhagen meeting

AMMAN (Petra) - Her Majesty Queen Noor left for Copenhagen on Tuesday to deliver an address on Thursday at a conference on "Reclaiming the Civil Society in the Global South" organised by the Centre for the Study of the Global South of the American University of Washington. The meeting is held on the sidelines of the U.N.-Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen. Queen Noor, who is president of the centre, was seen sein, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Princess Rania Al Abdullah, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Princess Ma-Parish revel ida, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and the Danish ambassador in Amman.

thrice-mans Princess Basma meets Ghaii

COPENHAGEN (Petra) -Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Tuesday met with U.N. Secretary General Bontros Ghali and conveyed o him the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and appreciation of his role in inhancing social justice and levelopment concepts in the vorld. Mr. Ghali thanked rincess Basma for Jordan's -- listinguished participation in be U.N. Summit on World "Development, which opened - n Copenhagen Monday, and · ommended the Princess' acive participation in interna-: ional development and : umanitarian activities.

· harif Zeid to head -- eam to Calro talks

MMAN (Petra) - The abinet on Tuesday decided form the Kingdom's degation to the meetings of ie Higher Jordanian-. gyptian Joint Committee : nich will be held in the third ... ek of March in Cairo. The . - legation will be headed by ime Minister Sharif Zeid n Shaker and will include veral ministers. The · ihinet also approved Jorn's participation in the eetings of the Arah League onomie and Social Orgaation, which will be held in iro March 11. The delegan will be headed by Indusand Trade Minister Ali aul Ragheh. The Council of

nisters decided also to set a delegation which will resent Jordan at a Nongned Movement meeting Indonesia April 24. The egation will be headed by Tongans pay! reign Minister Ahdul price for lath rim Al Kabariti.

ınmen kili U.N. iciai in Algiers

TTED NATIONS (AP) Junmen shot and killed a ted Nanons official in ena's capital Tuesday afhe resisted their attempt hijack his car, a U.N. kesman said. Oussini rache, an Algerian who deputy head of the U.N. ormation Centre in ers, was killed as he left e on his way to work, spokesman Joe Sills

Meeting on displaced falls short of expectations

Israel rejects Arab calls for speedy moves towards repatriation, insists on own scenario Committee set up to define eligibility, criteria, determine numbers and work on modalities

By Ghadeer Taher Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first Arab-Israeli meeting on the key issue of repatriating Palestinians displaced in the 1967 war ended here on Tuesday with the Arah side openly expressing disappointment that Israel was refusing to commit itself to agreeing to a mechanism for the return home of the Palestinians who were forced out of their homes 28 years ago.

Except an agreement to establish a committee to meet regularly to work out differences, the meeting produced little else in tangihle progress towards resolving one of the thorniest issues in the Arab-Israeli process.

"I believe that the outcome was below the level of expectations," Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told reporters after several hours

of closed-door talks with his Israeli and Egyptian counter-parts, Shimon Peres and Amr Musa respectively, and senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Nabil

"I hope the forthcoming meetings will move in the right direction of establishing the right of return of the displaced under the provisions of international law and the agreements signed with the Arab parties," said Mr.

The four ministers concluded their one-day meeting with a final communique setting up two committees one which would meet at the ministerial level and another at the expert level to tackle the complex issues.

The final communique omitted any reference to international law or United Nations Security Council Resolution 237, which calls for

Kabariti.

the repatriation of Palestinians who fled their homeland as a result of the 1967

The final communique also failed to mention the "right of return" instead using the term "modalities of admis-

According to observers, the omission of these two points was a victory for Israel, which apparently suc-ceeded in blocking their inclusion in the statement.

Dr. Shaath deplored "Israel's refusal to decide concrete measures in the framework of mutual eonfidence-huilding mea-Dr. Shaath told reporters

he had hoped Israel would announce the immediate return of even around 100 displaced "as proof of its good

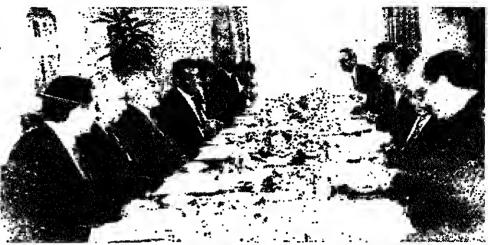
Dr. Shaath, a veteran Palestinian negotiator with Israel, told reporters that the Palestinian side had expected the Israeli approach to the

"Our peace process with Israel so far has faced Israeli resistance on everything re-lated to resolutions 242 and 338," Dr. Shaath said. "So this was no different from the typical Israeli hehaviour."

Looking somher after the session, Mr. Peres admitted that the meeting had failed to produce concrete results.

He renewed Israel's commitment to settling the issue of displaced Palestinians, but said any solution would have to take into account "measures that are necessary to avoid the disruption and the disorder in the territories." According to officials at the meeting, Israel refused to accept a PLO request to accept the immediate return

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and Jordan and a

tion Organisation at a lunch he hosted for them at the Hashemiyeh Palace on Tuesday

King underlines need for serious, relentless efforts for just peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday emphasised the need for all parties to the Middle East peace process to exert serious and relentless efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the

Speaking at a lunch he hosted at Al Hashemiyeh peace for the benefit of all

palace in honour of the forethe peoples in the region. He said that the Arah parign ministers of Egypt, Israel, Palestine and Jordan, who ties were seeking stability and met here to discuss the fate of the resumption of the de-Palestinians displaced by the velopment process to pave 1967 war, King Hussein said the ground for a better, sethat all Arah parties involved cure and prosperous future in the peace process were fully committed to the profor the coming generations.

Attending the lunch were cess and they strive to attain

(Continued on page 7)

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein plans to visit Washington this month for talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton on the Middle East peace process, Jordanian-American relations and the Kingdom's quest for U.S. aid, official sonrees said

They said no definite date is set for the visit. Although March 24 had been snggested as a possible date, the actual timing would de-pend on the schedule of Mr. Clinton, they said. It was not immediately clear whether the King would also undergo a periodie medical check-np at the Mayo Clinie, where he underwent surgery in 1992.

A report from Washington said the meeting could take place on March 27.

Among the topics the King is expected to discuss with the president and other senior officials of the administration are the status of the Middle East peace process, the developments in the Jordanian-Israeli track after the two countries signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26 and Amman's concern over recent moves in the U.S. Congress that have

behind a U.S. peace shuttle

to the Middle East this week.

Warren "Christopher is com-

ing to the region without any

really new proposal to settle

the differences between

Israel and Syria," military

intelligence chief Uri Saguy

breath new life into the nego-

tiations," General Saguy told

parliament's defence and

foreign affairs committee.
"There will be no progress

again this time because the

Syrians consider the United

States unable to put pressure

to be stationed on the Golan

Heights as part of a peace

on Israel," he said.

"He is just coming to

U.S. Secretary of State

raised questions on the fate of Washington's pledge to help the Kingdom achieve economic development companble with the state of peace

A House of Representatives sub-committee recently slashed to \$50 million an administration request for \$275 million in outlay to write off up to \$488 million in outstanding Jordanian official dehts to the U.S.

criticised in Jordan and by Israeli leaders. The King has made no public comment on In Washington, a senior

administration official said Monday the Clinton administration was determined to ensure debt forgiveness to Jordan which was promised hy President Clinton last summer before Jordan signed its peace treaty with Israel in

"It is taking up a great amount of time," of various elements within the administration, he stressed.

The administration approach to the debt writeoff to Jordan is that the Clinton White House is committed to the full cancellation of the Kingdom's dehts and that it would find some mechan-

Christopher has no new ideas for

peace, Israeli army spy chief says

ism to reverse the suhcommittee reduction when the proposal reaches the full Senate and perhaps a caucus between the Senate and the House of Representatives. However, the expected

debt write-off is only part of the Jordanian concern, officials say. They point out that the administration was requesting only \$43 million in military and economic aid to Jordan in the draft hudget for In July, Jordan submitted a

request to the U.S. for an annual economic and military assistance of \$2.5 billion for the next 10 years. While President Clinton did not make a definite commitment on the actual aid, he has clearly said since then that Washington was committed to meeting Jordan's economie and military needs, a pledge he also renewed during an address to the Jordanian Parliament on

Also expected to be reviewed in Washington are preparations for the Amman economie summit to be held in October and a proposal to set up a Middle East regional development hank. The U.S. has already pledged \$75 million as its contribution to the capital of the bank, but that is

a far cry from a proposed \$5

billion capital.

The background for the King's talks with President Clinton is expected to be set when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visits Jordan next week for a brief stay as part of his efforts to jump-start the stalled Syrian-Israeli negotiations and seek to give a fresh impetus to the trouhled Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process.

concern to Jordan are also expected to be discussed with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, who will be visiting the Kingdom on March 21.

Mr. Gore serves as a key advisor to President Clinton and his tour of the Middle East this month is seen as a message of continued American commitment to the regional peace process under the Democrat president despite moves in the Republican-dominated Congress that are interpreted as turning the U.S. away towards domestic concerns.

The King last visited the U.S. in July, when he and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the declaration that eventually led to the peace treaty signed on

Russians repulsed in

Gudermes SHALI (AFP) - Russian forces have been repulsed in their first attempts to launch an assault on Chechenya's second city of Gudermes,

ders claimed Tuesday. Russian forces meanwhile admitted that fighting continued in the capital Grozny, its troops had finished mopping up the last elements of resistance there:

Chechen military comman-

The Chechen officers said Russian forces who for several weeks have maintained positions close to Gudermes, 40 kilometres east of Grozny, began to push forward on Sunday hat have been forced back to their original lines in the past two days.

According to their account, which could not be independently confirmed, the Russians on Sunday advanced on the village of Dzhal-ka between Gudermes and Argun, attempting to cut off Gudermes from the rest of the rebel-held territory in the east of the breakaway repub-

But the offensive, involving 150 tanks and armoured vehicles, was repulsed and the Russians had returned to shelling Gudermes and Argun, which lies 15 kilometres east of Grozny, from their original positions, the Chechen commanders said.

Aslan Maskhadov, the head of forces loyal to secessionist President Dzhokhar Dudayev, told AFP: 'Gudermes, Argun and Shali. They have to take these three towns and no doubt they will try again in the next few days. But we have no intention of letting them do

On the other side of the province, Russian forces continued bomharding the rebel stronghold of Bamut and the key town of Achkhoi-Martan, 40 kilometres west of the capital, on Tuesday. Russian forces admitted Tuesday that fighting was still going in Grozny a day after the government in Moscow said its troops had finished mopping up the last elements of resistance there.

The Russian military press service said fighting continued in the Chechen capital, where its troops were doing everything possible to stop separatist fighters breaking through.

Mr. Maskhadov said his men were still battling against Russian troops in a final pocket of Grozny, the Chernorechye district, the southern zone where the army commander said Monday it had wiped out the last bastion of Chechen resistance.

Rabin pledges to continue PLO talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, his government in crisis over a corruption scandal, pledged Tuesday to continue peace talks with the Palestinians despite attacks hy militants opposed to the

"As long as I have a majority in the Knesset I will go on, because I feel that this is Mr. Rabin said in an address to a conference of reform. rahhis in occupied Jerusalem.

"I don't know how long this window will be open," he Mr. Rabin has steadily lost

popularity in recent months - primarily because of the attacks by extremists that have claimed 56 Israeli lives since October. Polls show that if elections were held today Mr. Rabin would lose to right-wing rivals. His troubles were com-

pounded this week with revelations that top officials of the ruling Labour Party may have used millions of dollars belonging to the Histadrut trade union for their political campaigns before losing control of the union last year.

(see page 2)
A poll published this week showed that support for the peace process dropped from 59.7 per cent in December to 52.5 per cent. The survey has a four per cent margin of

But the poll of 500 Israelis, conducted by the Steinmetz Centre for Peace Research at Tel Aviv University, showed that 64 per cent approved of Mr. Rabin's efforts to create a physical separation between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and

Mr. Rahin appointed Police Minister Moshe Shahal to develop a separation plan after a Jan. 22 suicide bombing in central Israel killed 21 Israelis.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said Tuesday that the army has presented Mr. Shahal's committee with a \$130 million proposal to use

Israel Radio said Mr. Shahal was to present Mr. Rahin with a finalised plan in two weeks.

The separation plan is reversal of the Israel-Palestine Liheration Organisation (PLO) accord which aimed to create a common economic space between Israel and the territories. Talks on extend-Jericho antonomy to the West Bank have also been stymied by the violence.

In Amman, officials from Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian leadership held talks on the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 war (See separate story).

Mr. Rabin urged the international community to maintain aid to Israel's Arah peace partners to bolster support for the process.

"There will be no stable peace in the Middle East if the international community, Japan, Europe and the United States will not assist those engaged in peace," Mr. Rabin said.

Israeli settlers donned Arab dress Tuesday in a protest at the Amman meeting which they fear could open the floodgates to the return of thousands of Palestinians. Some 20 men and women

in chequered scarves and traditional gowns landed at Jerusalem airport aboard two planes chartered by the settlers' conncil. After their brief flight from

Tel Aviv, they chanted slogans and kissed the ground at Atarot airport in East Jerualem. From there, they rode by

hus to an Arab home in Jerusalem now owned by a Jewish lawyer. The bus was covered with posters reading with hlood and fire we have redeemed Palestine" and 'Welcome home returnees.' Settlers chanted in Arabie.

"long live Peres," referring

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(Continued on page 7)

بركات Barakat

Would like to invite you at our Iranian carpets exhibition, direct from Iran, at the Forte Grand Hotel, Housing Bank Centre, starting from Friday March 10, till Sunday March 12.

From 11 a.m. till 8:00 p.m. For more information contact Barakat Exhibition for General Trading Al Jubelha 845487 Housing Bank 696575

Mr. Rahin sounded slightly more optimistic. "Let's hope that at least there will be the resumption of the talks in Washington," as a result of the mission by Mr. Christopher, who is due in Israel on Thursday. Mr. Rahin, speaking to American rabhis, defended his proposal for U.S. troops

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitsoldier had heen killed in 16 years of observing the peace with Egypt in the Sinai peninzhak Rabin called Tuesday for fresh talks with Syria as his military intelligence chief sula which Israel handed said there were no new ideas

hack in 1982. "The Goian Heights today is the safest area from terror in Israel. There has not been one infiltration or clash along the ceasefire line with Syria.

Mr. Rabin contrasted that with the Egyptian border where he said infiltrations and arms smuggling were common.

Syria has poured scorn on Israel's latest Offer and urged Mr. Christopher to come armed with fresh ideas. Mr. Rabin suggested a small-scale withdrawal over three years from the strategic heights to test Syria's desire for peace.

But a Syrian official said the proposals were "not even worth discussing." "There is no hope in sight of ending the impasse," Al Baath, the Syrian ruling par-

ty's newspaper, said on Tues-

day. "Israel's statements only show how wide the gap is hetween the Syrian and Israeli positions.' Both Israel and the United States know time is short to strike a deal with Damascus as by the middle of this year

both countries will have an

eye on campaigns for elec-Mr. Christopher was to fly overnight to Cairo, before

continuing on to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Jordan. He is also expected to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza. Since the secretary of state

was last in the region three

months ago, deadlock has intensified. Israel is quarrelling with the Palestinians, Syria and now also Egypt. "I think we all realise we're at a point in the process that's a difficult one," said one senior U.S. official. "We're

in a period where you just have to keep pushing away and you've got to keep work-Independent analysts said, however, that the difficulties had piled up. "Everywhere (Christopher) stops, he will

be met with impediments to

progress that are larger than

they were on his last trip,"

said Robert Satloff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin warned on Monday that this coming summer was a deadline for achieving peace before Israel

and the United States headed

Some analysts suggested Mr. Christopher might be able to negotiate a resumption of Syrian-Israeli talks during his trip, expected to last about a week. The outlook for the Israeli-

Palestinian peace track

appears hardly more promis-

ing, with Israel refusing to push ahead with a troop withdrawal in the West Bank and Palestinian elections because of what it sees as lax security. As on previous trips. Mr. Christopher is certain to press Mr. Arafat to take tougher measures to discipline the guerrilla groups

accord in 1993. Israeli officials said they wanted to see Mr. Arafat disarm the groups and put militants on trial. But their arguments have had little weight with Palestinians indignant at Israel's reluctance to curb Jewish settlements in

blamed in the killings of II4

Israelis since Israel and the

PLO signed their peace

the occupied territories. A new dispute has pitted Israel against Egypt, which is leading a campaign to renew the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for only 10 years —

(Continued on page 7)

prolonged PNA detention

Journalist freed after

By Cathy King

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The director of

the Gaza based Al Abrar

press office was released two

days ago fullowing a pro-

longed detention in the hands

of the Palestinian police, a

reliable source said Tuesday.

Alaa Al Saftawi was de-

tained on Feb. 8 when the

Palestinian police raided the

premises of the press office,

according to an international

organisation, the Committee

tion from Gaza that Al Safta-

Al Abrar press office issues

Earlier reports claimed

that Mr. Saftawi was de-tained after the Jan. 22

suicide bombing which killed

His detention along with that of five other Al Istiqlal

iournalists coincided with the

rounding up of supporters of

organisations opposed to the

peace accords with Israel.

More than 60 people were

arrested following January's

Groups which oppose the peace accords include Islamic Jihad, Hamas and the Demo-

cratic Front for the Libera-

"Saftawi was held for two

reasons. The first was on

account of Israeli pressure on

Yasser Arafat to crackdown

on Islamic militant activi-

ties," the source told the Jordan Times.

The second reason, said

Saftawi's father, a Gazan

leader who supports the Palestine National Authority

(PNA) President Yasser Ara-

fat. Mr. Saftawi's father was

assassinated in Gaza over a

year ago, the source said.

tion of Palestine (DFLP).

wi was released on Monday."

wish to be named.

weekly.

21 Israelis.

bomb-blast.

U.N. doubts U.S. reports Iraq can amass chemicals

UNITED NATIONS (R) -United Nations officials in charge of dismantling Iraq's war machine expressed dunhts un Munday about U.S. assertions that Iraq is rapidly rebuilding its chemical weapons industry.

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U.S. tifficials accompanying Ambassador Madeleine Albright on a lobbying tour of Security Council members abroad contended Iraq was building a huge industrial facility near Baghdad that could be used for chemical weapons in two years.

But the commission, which receives intelligence reports from the United States, has heavy monitoring at all suspected chemical sites and is wary of the new reports.

Our assessment is that if. there is any clandestine activity at those sites we would know about it," said commission spokesman Tim Trevan. He said there were five sites associated with Iraq's

past chemical warfare programme, the largest at Mnthanna, west of Baghdad, and another at Fallujah. Several of the facilities were **Beleaguered Rabin faces**

TEL AVIV (AP) - Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin, his

standing hadly shaken by

militant attacks and a dead-

lock in peace talks, now faces

a mushrooming scandal over

misuse of trade union funds

for Labour Party political

The scandal broke this

week with reports that police

were investigating tifficials

who allegedly used millions

of dollars belonging to the

Histadrut trade union to fund their political campaigns in

recent years. Although Mr. Rabin blm-

self has not been directly

implicated, the affair touches

at least tine cabinet minister

and as well as other leading

Naim Ramon, the head of

figures in the ruling party.

the Histadrut, told APTV

over the trade union federa-

tion from its former Labour

Party bosses nine months ago

Political commentator

Nahum Barnea termed the

affair "a pulitical cluster

bomb that could destroy not

tinly the careers of (former

Histadrut officials) but also

"His ship is breaking up and sinking," Mr. Barnea wrote in the Yediot Ahar-

The mood was funereal

Monday at Histadrut head-

quarters in central Tel Aviv.

an imposing huilding adorned

organisatiun's socialist roots.

trademark teacart — which

to many Israelis has come to

symbolise legions of hureauc-

rats whiling away the hours

sipping tea.
"The corruption stretches

A top official from the

national fraud squad told the

Associated Press the police

makers who sanctioned the

goal was to reach the decision-

will be different."

Rahin.

onot daily.

tematie wrongdoing and

Monday that upon taking

campaigns.

and the United Nations spent two years destroying chemical agents at the others.

At one site, Mr. Trevan said, Iraq was rebuilding facilities for pesticides and other non-U.N.-proscribed chemicals but these were under unusually beavy U.N. monitoring, including cameras, aerial surveillance and highly developed sensors.

'All the sites are being monitored closely," he said, referring to a long-term U.N. monitoring programme that will stay in place for years to

Rolf Ekcus, head of the commission, in a recent report to the Security Council said there were still severe problems in the biological weapons sphere but that he was satisfied the United Nations had destroyed chemical

The new U.S. information on the chemical sites came during a lobbying effort by Ms. Albright.
Ms. Albright claims she has frustrated any attempts to

ease sanctions against Iraq, particularly the oil embargo which is linked to weapons

snowballing financial scandal

police probe.

Washington can veto any attempt to ease sanctions but it wants most of the 15member Security Council on its side. U.S. officials contend Ms. Albright's trip firmed up 10 votes.

The United States has Britain, Argentina, the Czech Republie, Honduras and Rwanda on its side. Some Security Council envoys question whether other countries will hold the line if Mr. Ekeus gives a favourable report later this year.

France and Russia, backed by China and Indonesia, bave suggested they might seek a suspension of the oil embargo as early as April when Mr. Ekeus gives a six-month re-

At issue is a 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution that links destruction of weapons of mass destruction to lifting or easing sanctions on Iraqi exports such as oil. Imports of goods to Iraq are tied to other demands such as the return of property to Kuwait and an accounting of war



tib (right) shakes hands with his Egyptian ing in Berfin's congress centre on Monday. counterpart Mamdooh Al Beltagi (centre) and Mr. Khatib returned home on Tuesday (AFP

Khatib reports growing international interest in .Jordan's tourism sector

Berlin where be headed a

delegation of public and

private sector representa-

tives to the Berlin interna-

tional fair, Mr. Khatih said

he held talks with several

tourism ministers and offi-

cials attending the opening

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Tourism and Anti-quities Abdul Ilah Al Khatib on Tuesday stressed that there was international readiness to support the tourism sector in Jordan. particularly in the wake of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and the stability the King-In a statement to the

press upon returning from

ceremony of the fair. A large number of these officials voiced readiness to extend technical assistance to Jordan in the field of tonrism, the minister said.

He added that the private sector in Jordan, which was largely represented in the Jordanian delegation, felt a growing interest by international tour agencies in the Jordanian

Contacts made by delegation members show signs of an increasing demand by tourists to visit

Algerian press attacks ban on paper

TUNIS (R) - Algeria's press has rioped into a government order to suspend a Frenchlanguage newspaper, calling the decision "butchery by the guillotine" and "liquidation" of press freedoms.

The authorities on Sunday closed La Trihune on the grounds it was not publishing a twin Arabic publication as required by law. Algerian jonrnalists widely regarded Israel," Mr. Ramon prethat as a pretext to silence an independent newspaper cri-

tical of official policy. "La Tribune's suspension appears clearly as a man-oeuvre to liquidate awkward newspapers," said the lead-ing French-language newspaper Al Watan, saying it made a mockery of President Liamine Zeroual's pledge last month to protect the press.

U.S.-based press freedom advocacy group "Committee to Protect Inumalists (CPJ) warte an Monday to Mr. Zeroual urging him to allow La Tribune and the weekly sume publishing immediate- being "hutchered by the vio-

Al Waih Al Akhar was suspended on Feb. 20 by the Interior Ministry without any official explanation, the U.S. group said in its letter faxed to Reuters. "The Committee to Pro-

tect Journalists fears that these publications have been penalised simply for baving exercised their right to free expression," the letter said. Journalism in Algeria has been caught in the middle of a bloody conflict between the

military-hacked authorities and militants fighting to overthrow them. An estimated 30,000 Algerians bave died in three years of fighting. But free debate of the country's political future still rages in independent newspapers, despite militants kill-ing at least 33 journalists and

continual barassment by the authorities. The main Arabie language newspaper, Al Khabar, compared La Tribune's suspen-Al Waib Al Akbar th re- sith to a treedom fighter

lent guillotine." Algeria's army-hacked government has suspended several newspapers for "subversive information" and "apologising for terrorism" since conflict with the militants broke out. But it was the first time a paper was banned on grounds of lan-

In the past, journalists appealed to high officials when faced by government restrictions. But their tune un Munday was defiant, "(The closure) is unly nn-

veiling the anthorities' true intentions to silence... the Algerian people," La Tri-bune's editors said in a statement. On Sunday, they had hitingly referred to the militants and the government as a coalition of terrorism and authoritarianism."

Journalists say the government has stepped up pressure un them recently by hampering distribution, raising printing costs and imposing a government munopoly on advertising.

safety depends on U.N. SYDNEY (R) — An \$5 million will be enough to : Australian-hased husiness- win Mr. Morris's complete win Mr. Morris's complete

man held in Somalia hy his crediturs faces pussible to withdraw from the African -mutilation if the United Na- accountry, Mr. McVicker said. his cumpany within two weeks, the firm's managing "We bave probably a week

or a week and a half at the outside where we have th make things happen,"
Robert McVicker told Reuters from the firm's base in

"If we can't, we're going to be back in the same situation, but this time they might lop off a finger or his ear to show they're serious," Mr. McVicker said. "They do that sort of thing

over there," he said.

ity on dehts owing to the firm's Somali creditors. Mr. Morris, a New Zealander, has been told be cannot leave Somalia until the \$2

McVicker said. Morris Catering supplied U.N. troops in Somalia with food before they withdrew last week, but it claims it

hills. Mr. McVicker said he is

Morris catering \$20 million. but part payment of at least "It was part of a crack-down, which the Palestinian administration is very sincere about" on opponents to the peace accords, he said. According to the source. part of this on-going crack-down included "lengthy" interrogations of two imams

"Saftawi has chosen to

tread another line (to that of

his father) and so the second

reason for his detention was

to make him adopt bis

father's position," the source

who criticised Mr. Arafat in to Protect Journalists (CPJ). their preachings last Friday. "I have received informa-They were apparently re-leased after questioning. The source was unable to said the source, who did not

say whether the five journal-ists detained with Mr. Al Saftawi had been freed yet. Islamic Jihad's Al-Istiqlal

In a recent statement issued by the New York based CPJ, the journalist were named as Atiyeh Abu Mansour Khaled Sodie Mansour, Khaled Sadeq,
Nahed Kutkut, Mohammed
Sayyad and Zakariya
Madhun. A copy of the state
ment was obtained by the

Jordan Times. The non-partisan trganisa-tion's statement included a : letter sent to Mr. Arafat expressing its concern over the prolonged detention of Alaa ·: Al Saftawi... and five other journalists with the paper (Al-Istiqlal)." It added that the committee feared that they were "imprisoned for exercising their right to free

The CPI is dedicated to the defence of journalists' rights ... throughout the world.

The Al Ahrar press office was closed following January's bomh attack because . . the sonrce, was attributable to the role played by Mr. the two militants responsible were members of Islamic Jihad. The PNA allowed the reopening of the office on Feb. 27 after an investigation showed there was no need to keep it closed, although its tinn until Monday.

Australian firm owner's

tinns does nut pay its debts to "-"

Brisbane.

The owner of Australianbased Morris Catering, David Morris, offered himself last Wednesday as secur-

million deht is paid. Mr.

cannot pay its creditors until the United Nations pays its

due to meet senior U.N. officials in New York on Thursday to seek an urgent pay-

The United Nations owes

vfreedom and enable the firm The United Nations is in dispute with Mr. Morris over its contract with his company, and the matter could go to litigation, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said

York on Munday. New Zealand and Austra- :han governments have begun pressing the United Nations for the matter to be resolved. Australian Foreign Minis-

ter Gareth Evans wrote on Tuesday to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to en sure the issue received top priority, a spokesman for Mr. Evans told Reuters.

vans told Reuters.
A New Zealand Foreign '' :: · · · · Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday that Wellington was : Tuesday that wennigton Mr. still concerned about Mr. Morris and would keep press ing the United Nations for a resolution to the dispute.

resident, uffered himself as win the release of two Aupreviously being held.

The controversial business man won a lucrative contract Nations to supply the United Nations in Somalia A two-year U.N. interven-

tion in war-torn Somalia ended last Friday with the withdrawal of the last peacekeeping troops. In October 1993, Mr. Morris' 21-year-old son Tyson was killed hy Somali gun-men after dismissing a Somali

from his job.

JORDAN TELEVISION

i	
	PROGRAMME TWO
	17:00 Les Ratons Laveurs
ı	17:30 Envoye Special "Magazine" 19:00 News in French
	19:00 News in French
	19:30
	"The Bold and the Beautiful"
	19:45 E=M6
	20:30 The Marvellous Machine
	21:10 Berlin Break
	22:00 News in English
	22:20 Prism
	22:40 Snowy River
1	22:40 Snowy River 23:10 Keeping Up Appearance

PRAYER TIMES

	04:35Fa
i	05:52(Sunrise) Dul
	11:47 Dhu
	15:97
	17:42 Maghr
	18:58'lsi
	CHURCHES

	St. Mary of Nazareth Churc
ı	Sweifieb, Tcl. 810740
	Assemblies of God Church, To
	632785.
	St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590.
Ì	Church of the Annunciation To
ı	637440.
ļ	De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366
	Character of the Assessmentalist To

623541.

Anglican Church Tel, 630851, Tel. 628543. Catholic Church Tel. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephraim Churth Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel,

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. 324325. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tcl: 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691. Tel. 811295

WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Metcorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, moderat

Tcl.	calm.
D. Tel.	Min./Max. temp.
57 66	Aqaba 13 Deserts 4 Jordan Valley
Tel.	Yesterday's high temperatu

everything that will be de-cided by the investigators will be carried out," he told Israel Radio. "No one, and no

dicted.

framework, is above the Mr. Rahin has steadily lost popularity because of his seeming inability to stem attacks by militants - 56 Israelis have been killed since Octuber - or make headway

in peace talks with the

Palestinians and Syrians. His credibility bas also suffered because of mismanagement of economie issues, Mr. Rabin cancelled a capital gains tax after months of vacillation, the stock market plunged and pension funds are in trouble.

Mina Tsemach, head of the Dahaf polling organisation, Party bosses nure income of sys-he uncovered evidence of syssaid on army rdio Monday that even without factoring in e corruption scandal. Mr. Rabin would be defeated by right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu if elections were held today.

The Histadrut, representing 60 per cent of Israel's workforce of about two million, was the party's main power base for 74 years until Mr. Ramon, a Labour Party renegade, won elections last year. It owns a web of industries, services and collective farms estimated to account for up to a fifth of Israel's

with a red flag - a sign of the economic output. On Monday, Haaretz and Workers haddled in their other newspapers reported rooms debating how far the that a middle-ranking Histadinvestigation would reach.
"No one who worked here rut functionary, Uzi Fasa, agreed to testify that top over the years is surprised." said Melinka Kadosh, who operates an organisation's

Labour Party officials coerced him into misappropriating funds. According to the reports, about 1.4 million shekels (\$500,000) in members' dues were transferred to Labour's failed union election campaign last year, and millions of shekels more were used to

all the way to the top, but only the little guys get caught. Maybe this time it support several party memhers' 1992 Knesset campaigns.
Based on documents provided by Mr. Ramon, police are also investigating if Labour officials used Histad-

rut funds to pay for wiretaps

wrongdoing.
Mr. Rabin said Monday he and snrveillance on Mr. Ramon during last year's campaign.
"All those documents we would not interfere with the "We have rule of law, and

gave to police and we will continue to disclose... the fact that people and maybe parties used money of the Histadrut for their individual purposes," Mr. Ramon said, Of course such a corruptinn scandal will have an effect on the political map in

The daily Maarive news-paper said tifficials suspected of misusing the funds include former Histadrut head Haim Haberfeld, Transportation Minister Yisrael Kessar, Deputy Industry Minister Masha Luhelski, Legislatur Avi Yehezkel and others.

Pulice are unenvering things we knew all alting," said Matti Golan, a leading journalist and editor. "What do they mean by saying the party used union funds? The party was the union. If the discovered this now there is something wrong."

Rabin intervenes

On Tuesday, Mr. Rabin launched a damage limitation exercise as police probed the alleged misuse of millions of dollars of trade union funds.

"Only individuals are involved, not the Labour Party as such," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio as the fraud inquiry widened. Police Minister Moshe

Sbahal said charges would soon be filed against some of the suspects. The radio reported that

police would question Trans-port Minister Kessar and Deputy Trade Minister Lubelsky as well as several Labour Party deputies.

Despite Mr. Rabin's intervention, Trade Minister Micha Harish warned of major trouble ahead. A meeting of the party politburo will take place on Thursday to review the position ahead of next year's elections.

"The lunger the police examine Labour's affairs, the greater the danger for the party." said Mr. Harish.

Amman 16 Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent. Aqaba 39 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

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Dr. Yousef Abdo Dr. Bassim Quddumi Dr. Yousef Al Faqih ...

Dr. Fakhri Tayı

IRBID:

Firas pharmacy.

Dr. Ahmad Qanu ... Al Quds pharmacy ...

i(ch pharmacy 985417

Israeli probe condemns confusion on 'executions' TEL AVIV (AP) - A forend of the clash, the soldiers procedures and practices that might mislead and create the

mer military chief said Munday that ambiguous instructions have confused troops and may have led them to believe that it was acceptable to execute fallen enemies. The charge emerged from

an inquiry by reserve General Mosbe Levy into whether an army officer was mistakenly executed by his own forces carrying out the long-rumoured but ufficially denied practice widely known as "verifying the kill." The investigation into the

Dee. 19 death of Major Kiwan Hamed in Lebanon was launched after Fehruary media reports that his own troops mistook him for a guerrilla, shot him from afar and then approached to shoot him until he was dead.

Gen. Levy determined that Hamed got caught in crossfire during an intense, closerange gun hattle hetween Israeli troops and Lebanese guerrillas and could have been killed by either side. The report concluded soldiers did shoot Hamed after he was down: "Towards the

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121

Public Security Department Hotel Complaints Price Complainti

Water and Sewerage

Complaints Amman Municipality

(directory assistance) .

Overseas Calls

Central Amman Telephone

Highway Police Traffic Police ...

approached a man lying on the ground. Two of them fired at him, hitting him a few times, until somebody shouted, 'don't shoot, it's Kiwan'.

But Gen. Levy maintained that this did not constitute what is known as "verifying "I didn't find any confirmation of the elaim that

the 'verifying the kill' proce-

dure was applied here," he

wrote. Gen. Levy did, however, criticise what he termed "a great and dangerous lack of clarity both among the soldiers and their commanders' regarding the procedure.

"What began as enconraging fighters to kill the enemy during an assault has grown wild. Written regulations completely rule out harming an enemy who has surren-dered or who no longer poses a danger (hut) there are circumstances that can... bring soldiers into forbidden situations," he wrote.

He called for "nprooting

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn

542441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine. Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 666127/37
The Islamic. Abdali 666127/37

en Alia Hospital ... 602240/

Amal Hospital 674155

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

642441/2

777101/3

.... 891611/15

(09)900560 (09)986732 (09)990990

. (02)275555

(02)272275

Akilch Maternity, J. Amn.

Al-Ahli, Abdali Italian, Al-Muhajreen

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich

Zarqa National Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital

Princess Basma Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital

Princess Haya Hospital

Army,§Marka.....

ZAROA:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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confusion that exists today." An army statement said only that it had adopted Gen. Levy's recommendations and ordered them implemented. There was no direct response to the criticism regarding "verifying the kill."

The army has consistently denied the practice exists. But soldiers have claimed it does. Last month Israel TV aired a videotape in which soldiers were seen shooting point-blank a pros-trate Palestinian who had tried to attack them.

Gen. Levy recommended reprimanding four top officers, including northern commander Major General Amiram Levine, for their handling of the Hamed affair, especially not immediately divulging details of the incident to Hamed's family, members of Israel's Druze mintrity.

The officers "caused severe damage to the credibility of army reports," Gen. Levy

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Oueen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200

5, where it should always be veri-

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Filghts

..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Lamaca (RJ)

New York (RJ

Istanbul (RJ

Frankfun (RJ)

Brussels, Vienna (R.)

Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

18:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

... Paris (RJ)

. Beirut (RJ)

ARRIVALS

(Terminal 1)

08:55

13:15

16:45

17:20

18:10

18:35 ,..

17:55

Other Ellette Committee	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09-35

20:20

Cairo (MS Algiers (AH) Karachi (PK) Larnaca (CY) Beirui (ME) Albens (OA) Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

69:38	Rome	ъ.
10-00	American Manager	~
10-25	Amsterdam, New York	K
10:35	Berlin, London (R.
10:50	Tunis, Casabianes ('nΙ
1t: 0 5	İstanbul (ъ.
19:10	Colombo (
10.25	Colomba	ĸ
15-45	Beirut ((RJ
19540	Aqaba, Cairo	RJ
ZV:90	Rivadh (RI
20:30	Aden (ъ,
20-45	New Delhi	<u>.~</u>
71.75	New Della (K
47.45	Cakutta, Bangkok (R.J
74:45	Sanaa (RI
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Other Flights (Terminal
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00:20 Amsterdam (KL) 02:40 Athens (OA) HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amusea ... 8:00 a.m. every Mondry. Arr. Demastus 5:00 p.m. every Mondry Dep. Damastus 7:30 a.m. every Sundry Arr. Amusea ... 5:00 p.m. every Sundry **MARKET PRICES** Uppen/lower price in fils per kg.

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Apple	700/ 5
Banana	6
Banana (Mukammar)	6
Cabbage	120 /
Carrot	160/
Cauliflower	18W 1
Cucumbers (large)	100
Cuclimbout (mails)	100 / 1
Cucumbers (small)	100 / 1
Eggplant	150
Garlic	1200/8
Green beans	300 / 2
Lemon	350 / 2
Marrow (large)	.100 /
Marrow (small)	150 /
Onion (green)	260/ 15
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MANAGERY THE

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he a long-term one. government contracts. These civil servants draw

plan will he implemented first

rious local councils. The municipalities, many of which are deep in debt could ensure steady income to repay their ohligations to the various financing institunons and guarantee for themselves a constant income for their own services and programmes, said Mr. Thuheirat during his tour.

Speaking during visits to Ajloun and Jerash municipa-Mr. Thuheirat discussed lities in northern Jordan, the minister said the ministry's with the mayors of the two

municipalities prospects for at the m n municipalities and later 'l extend to vatourism projects in their respecuve areas, noting that Jerash and Ajloun were among the Kingdom's main attractions for summer vaca-

tioners. But, he stressed that income generating projects and city planning procedures should be carried out to enpublic safety and

the safety of the environment. The minister also discussed the local councils' role in helping to curh road accidents, noting that the ministry has recently created a special department to take care of this issue and to give

An 11-year-old child told

police that the victim, Khalil

Ahu Alanda area.

advice to the local councils. He said that plans are under way to organise a workshop designed to provide municipalities staff with hasic knowledge and skill to handle their tasks and to contribute towards reducing road accidents in their regions.

The minister listened to a hriefing hy the heads of municipality committees ab-

Municipal affairs minister tours Ajloun, Jerash municipalities out their regions' needs for services. These requests in-

> minister set up a joint committee from the Jerash and Ajloun municipalities to follow up the implementation of decisions taken by the two cities and the ministry for improving municipal services

The Prague Chamber Ballet

will be under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The visit of the Prague

UNRWA to meet with donor, host countries Agency warns of service cuts as funding erodes

By Ghadeer Taher Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Warning that it would be forced to cut essential services if contributions continue to erode, the United Nations agency in charge of caring for over three million Palestinian refugees begins a two-day meeting today in Amman with major donors and host countries.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which has a hudget of about \$300 million, provides health, educational and other essential services for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lehanon, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Faced with an erosion in contributions from donor countries, Secretary-General Ilter Türkmen plans to present representatives of about 20 countries and the host governments of Jordan, Syria and Lehanon, with a new approach — "the five-year planning horizon," according to Chief of UNRWA's Public Information Office Sandro Tucci. For the first time, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will also participate as an

UNRWA, which prior to the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles suhmitted an annual or hi-annual

hudget to donors, will present a "five-year planning horizon" to coincide with the timetable set out by the Declaration of Principles, which envisions a final settlement to the Palestinian problem within five years. It is not dear what would he the fate of the agency after the five-year transitional

period.
"The delegations will be presented with a perspective on the financial requirements of the coming five years and the requirements necessary to keep our services untouched taking into account the increase in population and cost," said Mr. Tncci. "It will be difficult for

the agency to continue to work in uncertainty with the continuing and growing hudget deficit which so far has been covered by severe austerity measures," said

The agency, which de-pends on the generosity of donor countries to run its schools, hospitals and food programmes in the camps. was faced with a \$10 million deficit last year which it covered through cuts in the agency's running expenses, including travel and a hiring freeze. So far programmes in the camps remain untouched.

"It has to he clear to everyone that if we continue to receive less money than needed, we will have

interpretation of the JPA law

of 1983, adding that news-

paper managements should



An elderly Palestinian refugee walks through a street in Baqa'a camp, north of Amman (UNRWA photo)

to cut our services," said Mr. Tucci, noting that UN-RWA was the only organisation taking care of the Palestinian poor.

Although it is not expected that donor countries would pledge specific funds to the agency's budget at this informal meeting, UN-RWA officials expect to get a general indication of how these countries want to cope with the five-year

At the meeting, which is expected to be opened hy His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, UNRWA will also discuss with the donor countries the agency's move from Vienna to the Gaza Strip.

The relocation of the headquarters, which was decided in June 1994, has to be financed from resources outside UNRWA's general hudget as stipu-lated by the general assem-

*There is a resolution hy the general assembly that says we have to move to Gaza," said Mr. Tucci. "To move to Gaza we need

hly resolution.

funds and these funds have not been forthcoming yet. It is hoped that at this meeting we will have a clear perception of what the donor countries want to do in terms of our move and shouldering the ex-

JPA to notify newspaper managements of ruling on 1% advertising revenues

AMMAN (J.T.) — In light of a decision by a judicial panel which ruled that the Jordan Press Association (JPA) has the right to collect one per cent of the total advertising revenues earned hy daily newspapers, the JPA board Tuesday decided that it would formally convey the decision to the papers' man-agements, and demand that they ahide hy the ruling with-

in a month of notification. Meeting under the chair-manship of JPA President

Suleiman Qudah, the hoard said in a statement that the ruling hy a panel of judges
led by Judge Khleif Suheimat
came in the course of the

The board noted that it
discussed the situation that
arose following the decision

Special to the Jordan Times

each weekly publication should pay the JPA JD 75 annually.

to liquidate the Dar Al Shaah firm which used to publish Sawt Al Shaah, an Arabic ahide hy the ruling and the. daily, and the fate of its staff.

requirements of the JPA law. A JPA committee entrusted with following up The panel ruling, issued Feh. 26, 1995, confirmed that matters related to the journalists who were employed at Sawt Al Shaab; submitted a report on its work-in which it noted that the concerned government authorities will safeguard the journalists' rights and compensation, and will find jobs for at least the

JPA members among them. The board voiced appreciation of decisions to that effect taken hy Minister of Informa-

of Industry and Trade Ali Ahul Ragheh and the chairman of the Dar Al Shaah board, Wasef Azar.

The board called for a meeting on Saturday of the memhership committee to finalise procedures for the registration_of new journalists, paying the ground, for their swearing in before the minister of information so that they can practise journalism.

On Feh. 26, the director of the Press and Publications Department decided to suspend the publication of two weeklies on the basis that their chief editors did not

were Hawadeth Al Sa'ah and Al Bilad.

Although they have heen accepted as JPA members, the two editors have not yet taken the oath nor received their JPA membership cards. 'The JPA' board stressed its commitment to execute the JPA law and also to protect freedom of the press and

journalists' rights. The board also decided to call for a JPA general assemhly meeting Friday, March 31, to endorse the JPA's 1994 accounts and the

1995 hudget and to listen to a



Jordanian and Palestinian delegations ral cooperation in information fields (Pet-Tuesday meet in Amman to discuss cultural ra photo)

Jordanian, Palestinian teams discuss cultural cooperation in information readiness to provide the

AMMAN (Petra) — A eration in cultural and in-Palestinian delegation from formation affairs. the self-rule areas Tuesday held talks at the Ministry of Culture to organise hilateral cooperation in cultural affairs covering radio and television programmes, lihraries and national documentation centres, and theatre and news

The Palestinian delegation, led hy Mohammad Batrawi, who is advisor to the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, presented a request to the Jordanian ministry for Jordanian expertise to help the Palestinian side in matters such as legislation on culture and information as well as training of staff to be employed in these fields. His counterpart, Moham-

mad Naji Amairch, the Ministry of Culture secretary general, said that the meeting was in implementation of a general agreement concluded hy Palestine and Jordan on Jan. 1, 1995 covering coop-

Mr. Amaireh said that the two sides exchanged views on relevant questions and a draft protocol for the execution of

a cultural and information

agreement that would cover the years 1995, 1996 and Noting that the two sides are bound to cooperate closein these fields since the Palestinians and Jordanians form one people, Mr. Amaireh expressed hope that the two delegations will pursue all efforts to coordinate such cooperation in the best

interest of the people on the

two sides of the Jordan Riv-

Jordan places no restrictions or limits whatsoever on the extent of cooperation between the two sides and hopes that all channels will remain open for consultation and coordination, said Mr. Amaireh.

He expressed Jordan's

ture and information. Mr. Batrawi said that the Palestine National Authority (PNA) is keen on maintaining the closest possible cooperation with Jordan, and

Palestinian side with exper-

tise in matters related to cul-

appreciation of Jordan's constant support for the Palestinian people. The Jordanian side presented ideas on cooperation between radio and television stations, national news agencies, cultural centres, theatre work, book exhibitions and

voiced Palestine's deep

cultural festivals. At the end of the meeting the two sides set up a joint drafting committee to prepare a protocol for the imple-

mentation of the Jan. 26 agreement. Representatives of radio and television as well as news

agencies and cultural centres on the two sides were present at the meeting.

ŌΪ

oı انا.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. . * Exhibition of art by Consuelo Gonzalez at Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

🜣 Exhibition by Syrian artist Marwan Qas- 🛪 "Young America" exhibit (with photosab Bashi at Darat Al Funun. Also showing a permanent exhibition of contempor-

Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural

☆ Exhibition of women's abstract artists entitled "The World Through the Eyes of Women" at Baladna Art Gallery.

graphs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Centre.

servants, the government will not be issuing classified civil service contracts to any of its new hirees for an indefinite period, Abdnl Rahman Ajlouni, director of the Ministry of Finance's Public Budget Department, told the Jordan Times Tues-

day.
Mr. Ajlouni said that the freeze, decided upon hy the Cabinet during its meeting on the eve of Eid Ai Fitr, "is definite through 1995. But more studies will be needed before any decision on whether the freeze will

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday vi-

sited Aqaba and the southern

border regions of Jordan

where he urged the con-

cerned authorities to he

attentive to the cleanliness

and good management of the

border posts thus facilitating

the comfortable passage of

Prince Hassan stressed the

importance of the Kingdom's

border posts and their ser-

vices in reflecting the proper

image of the country to

The Crown Prince, who

visited the eastern and north-

ern parts of Agaha, urged

local residents to take good

care of the land and ensure

that factories set up in these

areas would not pose a threat

to the environment or the

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - In a move .

aimed mainly at reining in

the rising cost of pension

payments to retired civil

neighbouring countries.

travellers in these areas.

Previously, officials had indicated in recent months that the government was studying ways to dampen any future rises in the cost of providing for retired civil servants who held classified

JERASH (Petra) — Minister

of Municipal and Rural

Affairs Nader Thuheirat

Tuesday said that his ministry

is planning to initiate invest-

ment and income-generating

projects at each major muni-

cipality in different governo-rates in order to help these

municipalities earn income

needed to finance local ser-

vices projects.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday visits the southern border regions

Crown Prince visits Agaba

and southern border regions

He recommended that the

Aqaha Region Authority and

the local councils reach a

final solution to the problems

facing the distribution and

sale of land in the Agaba

region, saying that a law should be enacted to han the

sale of land except through

the Lands and Survey De-

partment, and that develop-

ment projects in the Agaba

region should primarily be-

Accompanied by local offi-

cials the Prince toured the

border area and the proce-

dures at the crossing points.

anthorities to link organisa-

tional plans to those of the

neighbouring hadia region,

and stressed that local resi-

Classified civil service contracts

dents should receive

He urged the concerned

nefit local citizens.

jected openings for new civilian employees in 1995, according to Mr. Ajlouni, amount to roughly 2,800

rious capacities. ployment applications on file at the 3C at 102,000, in comparis to 2,000 actual

government jobs.

Meanwhile, he said, the some 3. 000 employees currently working in va-

the time.

to Mr. Ajlouni, would be to move into private sector

tensive civil service labour

government already has year, President of the Civil

joh openings available at

the recent freeze, according give any new government hirees greater mobility to jobs if they so choose, as their pension subscriptions to the SSC could be transferred with them, without any cut-off effect resulting from the move out of their

frozen for new hirees — official

Service Commission Ahdullah Ulayan counted em-

A secondary objective of

their retirement pensions directly from the govern-ment treasury. All new government employees hired during the freeze, according to Mr. Ajlouni, will be issued individual contracts with pensions provided for by subscriptions to the So-

cial Security Corporation (SSC) instead. Until now, the SSC has mainly handled pensions

projects in the southern re-

Furthermore, Prince Has-

san ordered that the 27 arte-

sian wells that have been

closed in the past years he

The Water Authority has

heen implementing strict

rules concerning the exploita-

tion of artesian wells and had

hanned drilling of new wells

with the aim of protecting

Prince Hassan were several

executive directors of pro-

jects, governors and district

governors, Chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen.

Abdul Hafez Marai Al Kaab-

neh and the commander of

Present at the meeting with

gions of the Kingdom.

private Allocations needed to cover the cost of pension payments to former classified civil servants, as well as non-civilian government employees, reached JD 160 million in the government's 1995 hudget, amounting to what some economists have labelled as a major national

debt in its own right. Officials have also said that in the past, "international and regional institutions" had recommended phasing pension payments for civil servants out of the budget, and urged steps to prevent further inflation in the size of the already ex-

the JPA has the right to the one per cent collection, on advertising revenues and said that in any case the amount should not be less than ID 200 annually. The panel also ruled that

Search on for driver

of red hit-run vehicle Abdul Hamid, was crossing the street when he was struck

hy the vehicle. According to the Public Security Department (PSD) report, police obtained a AMMAN - Ahu Alanda and Quesmeh police Tuesday good description of the vehicontinued their search for a cle from bystanders at the red Mercedes who witnesses scene of the accident, hut described Monday evening as they were unable to get the the vehicle which struck and killed a 12-year-old boy in the

As of Tuesday evening, police were still searching for

vehicle's tag numbers, the report added. the driver of the red vehicle.

cluded road building, the establishment of youth centres and terminals for public During the meetings the

and supervising town plan-

Prague Chamber Ballet to land on stage in avant-garde spectrum of compositions

garde ballet ensemble, will present two differing per-formances at the Royal Prague Chamber Ballet will Cultural Centre. The per- be celebrating its 20th formances will be the second exposition of Czech culture m the Kingdom in the last four months.

The musical repertoire of the two performances mainly celebrates Czech and Slovak compositions, for which choreographed stage performances have been especially arranged for the first

The ballet company disraphic compositions from never intended for the

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Satur- story-less dance routines to day and Sunday the Prague comedies and even "fully Chamber Ballet, an avant- dramatised ballets," the company's programme reads. Established in 1975, the

anniversary later this year. The troupe consists of only 18 dancers, whose artistic director and choreographer, Pavel Smok, has orchestrated

over 80 ballets. The programme describes Mr. Smok as an artistic director who uses emotion and intelligence in his work and adds that he often chooses musical scores "such as certain choirs, symphonies, plays a range of choreog- chamber and vocal works

But his choreography is "so in harmony with the music, that the audience is inspired to believe they are listening with their eyes."

This is only the second time that Czech artists have visited the Kingdom. In October a trio of professional musicians performed Czech classical music, includ-

ing the works of world famed composers Bedrich Smetana and Antonin Dvorak. Later this month (March 29-April 13) there will also be an opportunity to view an exhibition of Czech children's paintings at the Royal Cultu-

ral Centre.

The two performances of Chamber Ballet has heen

contemporary Czech ballet arranged by the Czech embassy in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation/National Music

Japan pledges \$5.8 million for N. Korea nuclear deal

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan said Tuesday it would provide an initial \$5.8 million for a global consortium to underwrite a nuclear deal with North Korea.

\$3 million will be used for an on-site survey for the construction of light-water reactors and \$2.8 million for operating costs of the secretariat of the Korean Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), Japan's Chief Cabinei Secretary Kozo Igarashi said in a statement.

KEDO aims to raise \$4.5 billion to provide North Korea with light-water reactors and alternative energy supplies as pledged in a pact signed between Pyongyang and Washingtoo in Geneva last October.

In return, North Korea has promised to freeze and dismantle its energy programme, which was widely suspected of being used to also produce nuclear bombs. Pyongyang denies the charge.

South Korea is expected to provide the hulk of the funds for the consortium. Japan has also pledged to foot a significant amount of the bill, but bas not yet provided a speci-

'Japan has also made clear

cant financial role in the light-water reactor project, under an overall project scheme in which the Republic of Korea is expected to play the central role," Mr. Igar-

Australia has already pledged \$5 million and New Zealand \$325,000 to the

KEDO is due to be officially launched after two days of meetings start on March 8 in

Apart from South Korea, the United States and Japan, KEDO's inical signatories, the two-day meeting will be attended by representatives of about 20 countries.

Pyongyang Tuesday de-clared it had "nothing to lose or fear" if an agreement with the United States on reining in its nuclear programme col-lapsed over U.S. insistence that the North accept South

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that if an agreement on light-water reactors is not signed by April 21, Pyongyang will "be left with no other choice but

to make a corresponding de-cision and take action." "Even if the (North

fighter wing would take part Korean)-U.S. agreed framework collapsed for this, in the manoeuvres from April 3 to 8. The numbers of units we would have nothing to and men taking part are claslose or fear. On the contrary, sified information, a Defence we would have a favourable Department spokesman said. opportunity to put the state of things on the right course before it is too late," KCNA that there could be "no mis-

The statement did not spell out the course of action, but seemed to hint at a resumption by North Korea of the reprocessing of irradiated fuel rods, which can be used to extract plutonium for ossible use in making nuc-

Spirit, the spokesman said.

October nuclear accord with

The North, which iotelli-

gence reports say held "more vigorous than usual" winter

exercises of its own from December to February this year, calls Team Spirit, held annually sioce 1976, "a re-

The limited South Korean

exercise will take place in the

mountainous Hwachon area

of Kangwon province, the spokesman said.

Washingtoo.

bearsal for war.

Clinton

new

announces

initiative

development

COPENHAGEN (AFP) -

In a vigorous counterpunch to critics of the United States,

U.S. first lady Hillary

Rodham Clintoo took centre stage at the U.N. World Summit on Social Develop-

ment on Tuesday with a ma-

jor new commitment to women's education in the

Mrs. Clinton appealed for the rights of women and

workers and urged govern-

ments to hand over power to

citizens and voluntary orga-

nisations in the fight against

verty and social injustice.

"Investing in the health of

women and girls is essential

for global prosperity. Tomorrow, as part of International

Women's Day, it will be my

booour to announce a major

Third World.

lear weapons. The North Korean statement was in response to an announcement in Washington last week hy South Ko-rean, U.S. and Japanese officials that the supply of two South Korean reactors was the only choice open to Pyon-

gyang. Meanwhile South Korean army, naval and air force units will launch a six-day joint military exercise next month in Kangwon, a northeastern province bordering the demilitarised zone, the Defence Department said

The announcement said an



Bodies are covered with plastics after suspected mafia hitmen shot the victims. Domenico Buscetta, the nephe of supergrass Tommaso Buscetta, was shot with a single bullet to the head in the middle a Palermo street a few hours after. Two of the victims here were known mafin members (AFP photo)

Mafia's code of silence spells death for kinfolk

ROME (R) — Anti-mafia investigators in Sicily know it as the "transverse vendetta." In layman's language it is violeot death lurking in wait for anyone with even remote blood ties to those who dare to break Cosa Nostra's fear-

omerta. Domenico Buscetta, a 45year-old jeweller in Palermo, paid the price of his uncle Tomaso's decade-old breach of the code Monday night when killers on a motorcycle

some code of silence, or

gunned him down on a street n the Sicilian capital. Mobsters exacted similar indirect retribution on another turncoat of long standing, former hitman Salvatore "Totuccio" Contorno, when a cousin much removed, 23-year-old Marcello Grado, was shot dead in

Thursday. The murders were among nine mafia killings in Sicily since Feh. 25 that add up to a bloody show of force by Cosa Nostra after two years of relative calm following the body blow dealt by the arrest of "boss of bosses" Salvatore

a Palermo fruit market last

"the Beast" Riina. Investigators believe a common thread may link all nine murders but acknowledge they have yet to estab-

One theory is that the clans, which have largely lain low since 1993, are back at each other's throats in a new war for supremacy inside

Another is that the mafia's cupola, or ruling commission, has decided on chilling deterrent to potential oew infor-

resumed its terrorist offensive against turncoats," said Palermo prosecutor Guido Lo Forte.

Police say about 500 mafiesi have turned state's evidence in the past two years, bringing the total num-ber to more than 820. Hitmen in Sicily shot dead four meo in as many bours

Mooday io an opsurge of mafia bloodletting after two years of relative calm. Three of the victims died in

a hail of bullets when they stepped from a bar in the main square of a suburh Catania, a city in the shadow of Mount Etna in eastern

Police in the suburb, Gra-vina Di Catania, said four killers shot the trio in the head and chest in broad daylight hefore fleeing on motorcycles. Several people witnessed the slayings.

"It was a classic mafia hit," police spokesman said.

The fourth victim, Buscetta, 45, was killed in the island capital Palermo less than four bours later, police said. Meanwhile former Premier

Giulio Andreotti, testifying as a defence witness, Monday denied ever meeting a leader mafia boss.

The trial in Reggio Di Calabria city, for the 1991 murder of Appeals Court Judge Antonio Scopelliti, is unrelated to the case in Palermo, Sicily, where Mr. Andreotti was indicted last week on charges of having ties with the mafia. His trial is scheduled to begin on Sept.

U.S. reaffirms confidence in Claes

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— The U.S. government reaffirmed confidence in Willy Claes Monday as the scandal-threatened NATO chief began long-scheduled meetings with leaders of President Bill Clinton's administration.

Mr. Claes' formal oews conference at the National Press Club next Thursday was cancelled without immediate explanation, bowever, as the Belgian NATO secretary-general continued avoiding reporters.

At her regular State Department briefing, spokes-woman Christice Shelly re-called the Vice President Al Gore a week ago in Brussels bad declared "full and complete confidence" in Mr. Claes, who was appointed hy NATO governments last October to the top civilian post in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Mr. Claes was scheduled to meet Mr. Clinton at the White House Tuesday. He was Secretary of State

Warren Christopher's guest at a State Department work-ing lunch Monday. A picture-taking session lasted only 23 seconds, sborter than the normal "photo opportunity" affording journalists time for questions.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry welcomed him for afternoon talks with a Peotagon Honour Guard

ceremony.

Mr. Claes warned that a pullout of U.N. peacekeepers from Croatia would make it more difficult to prevent the spread of war in the Balkans. There would be "no fall-

back" for Croatia if President Franjo Tudiman carries out his plan to have the peacekeepers ejected at the end of the month, Mr. Claes told reporters after an arrival ceremoceyat the Pentagon.

Mr. Claes was seeking to maintain the low profile he assumed after the developing scandal brought calls in some European capitals for his resignation from the NATO post. In the affair, His Belgian Socialist Party was accused of receiving a \$1.7 million kickhack on an order of \$250 million \$400 million worth of military belicopters the times Mr. Claes was

economics minister. Joban Delanghe, a onetime seojor aid to Mr. Claes. was arrested on Feh. 28 in Brussels in connection with allegations of receiving a bribe on the helicopter deal

from Italian firm, Agusta. In Brussels police investigating the corruption scandal involving bribes reportedly paid for military contracts have seized documents from the offices of the French aeronautics firm Dassault Aviation and an affiliated company, police said Tues-

day.

They said they scarched the offices of Dassault and its Belgian affiliate Societe tion Aeronautique (SABCA) Monday in connection with the Agusta scandal.

American named as new Paris **Opera conductor**

bel Muslim:

Bosnian arr

PARIS (AFP) — U.S. conductor James Conlon has been oamed to head the orchestra of the Paris Opera, succeeding South Koreanborn maestro Myung Whun Chung, who was fired last year, the Paris Opera announced Monday. Conlon, 44, has been appointed conductor "in agreement with the French government," said Hugues Gall, acting director of the Paris Opera. Conlon, who will retain his present job as musical director of the Cologne Opera orchestra as well as the western German city's orchestra, will be musical advisor to Gall starting from May 1 before formally taking over as orchestra head in August, 1996. The American's contract will run until 2001, like Gall's. The latter takes over as full director of the Paris Opera next August. Conlon's title as conductor is lesser tban Cbuog's, wbo was musical director. Born in New York, Conlon is a product of the city's Julliard School. By the age of 24, he conducted the New York Philharmonic and two years later the Metropolitican. Chung was given a nine mil-bon franc (\$1.7 million) pay-ment last September after the Paris Opera broke his contract as part of a cost-cutting exercise ordered by the conservative government of Prime Minister Edouard Bal-

Claudia Schiffer quits wearing fur

LONDON (R) — German Claudia Schiffer bas become the latest supermodel to stop wearing fur oo the catwalk, ammal activists said Tuesday. "Champagne corks popped at our office wheo Claudia Schiffer's signature arrive, said a spokeswoman for PETA - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. 'The hig question now is, will anybody model fur on the international runways this montb?" spokeswoman Amanda Bate said in a statement. It said Schiffer, one of the world's most highly paid models, had worn animal furs for a Karl Lagerfeld show in Milan last year but had pledged oot to do so again. PETA said a "models for compassion" petition had also been signed by super-

Burglars tunnel in, take \$7m in valuables

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Burglars tuoceled ioto Maybao Fioance's stroog room and looted safe deposit boxes of an estimated \$7.87 million worth of valuables, police said. Kuala Lumpur Police Chief Arthor Edmunds said the burglars emptied more than 723 boxes of contects including jewellery, stock certifications, cash and other items. Police still were calculating the exact amount of losses, he added. The finance company had been closed since last Thursday evening for the Muslim festival of Eid Al fitr. The break-in was discovered Monday morning. Police said the burglars bad eotered a big drain oearby and dug a 12-metre (40-foot)-long tunnel to reach the bank. They then bored their way 1.8 metres (6 feet) upward to reach the strong room.

of The Lion King in its first week on sale, the Wait Disney Co. said. The first week volume places The Lioo King on track to become the bestselling movie video. The company expects to sell 27 million copies, breaking 24 million record held by Snow White. Only a handful of movies — including Snow White, Aladdio and Beanty And The Beast - have sold more than 20 million copies total. Aladdin sold 10.6 milhin copies in its first week. The one-week record yielded North American retail sales of \$350 million. The record sales come even with the movie still playing in some theatres. Disney has stepped up production to meet the demand. Lion King videocassettes went on sales Tuesday. Many stores are selling the cassettes at steep discounts, often \$8 or more off the suggested \$26.98 retail price.

This view from the space shuttle Endeavour's Endeavour and her seven

cargo bay shows the ASTRO-2 instrument flight-day five of a scheduled 15-day mission to package (left) in the bay with the Earth below. conduct scientific experiments (AFP photo)

Shuttle telescopes target exploded star

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Eodeavour's into space. It is buttled who's in charge of one of the shuttle telescopes. astronauts aimed powerful ultraviolet telescopes at a newly exploded star that is thousands of times htighter than it was before it hurst.

Nova Aquilae erupted in a thermoouclear explosion a month ago. Before reaching this boiling point, the White Dwarf star had been tugging material from its larger companioo star and huilt up a layer of bot gas that eventual-

Scientists believe a oew buildup of gas will start soon and that another outburst will occur thousands of years

from now. "Even though yon just see a pinpoint of light, we can begin to interpret it in terms of drawing a threedimensional picture of this event," said Arthur Code, an astronomer at the University of Wisconsio at Madison

a pair of glasses.

Mr. Lange was preceded to the witness stand Monday by

Mark Storfer, a former oeighbour of Ms. Simpson.

Like other prosecution wit-

nesses, he testified that he

heard the howling dog that

prosecutors say signalled the

out of order, before Mr.

Lange had finished testifying, because he now lives out of

state, Judge Lance Ito told

Mr. Storfer said that he

was putting his son to bed on

Juoe 12 when he beard the

barking about 10:20 p.m. He

said that when he returned to

his bedroom, the digital clock

on the television - which

was set 5 minutes fast - read

10:28 p.m. Meanwhile the key defence

witness returned to her

homeland Monday and disco-

vered she didn't leave the

media frenzy behind. Ms.

Lopez went immediately to a

relative's home in the provin-

cial town of Sensuntepeque,

35 miles east of San Salvador.

Mr. Storfer took the stand

viewed by the three ultradeavour so astronomers can

Detective in O.J. Simpson case says no other suspects; motives checked out

soo's ex-wife, was the primary target of their killer, or that someooe other than Simpson committed the mur-

"I had absolutely no other evidence that would point me in any other direction," detective Tom Lange said Monday under cross-examination.

theory the murders could have been drug-related. Simpson attorney Johnnie Corchran Jr. asked whether police iovestigated that angle. Mr. Lange said authorities looked "superficially" into drugs as a motive, but "in this particular case, we had another direction to

Simpson, 47, a professional foothall Hall of Famer who became an actor and television sports commentator, has pleaded innoceot to the killings. He remains jailed with-

out bail. Mr. Cochran also asked if police looked into the background of Faye Resnick, who lived with Nicole Brown Simpson days before the murders and has admitted past drug problems. The udge barred questions about Ms. Resnick's entry into a drug treatment centre, where no evidence whatsoever that

she was the night of the Mr. Lange said his partner, detective Philip Vannatter, Interviewed Ms. Resnick on tape. But Mr. Lange said he

Mr. Lange retook the stand after a IO-day interrup-

elicit evidence of shoddy poli-

cy work and a "rush to judgment" that Simpson was the that Mr. Goldman may have

asked. The targets of an assassin?" Mr. Lange replied, incredulously.

his wording to whether Gold-man was "the target of... the perpetrator or perpetrators" on Juoe 12. Mr. Lange still

investigating officer in this case - ever consider any other theory than if O.J. Simpson was the only perpetrator in this case?" Mr.

would point in any other

Asked if he considered the possibility that Goldman had been followed to Ms. Simpson's condominium, Mr. Lange said, "I think it's entirely possible he was fol-

"Did you ever consider

years away.

Another nova erupted in late January and yet another just a little over a week ago. Both of these also will be violet telescopes aboard Enlearn more about the life

new United States commitment to expand educational

> social disintegration. In an apparent attempt to deflect criticism from her husband, who will not be among the 111 heads of state or government due to address

NGOs will be critical in guid-

She cited landmark social advances in the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries "the abolition of slavery. the right of women to vote as well as the civil rights movement" - saying they "would not have been achieved without the leadership of civic, religious and social organisa-

power" and she urged all government to ratify the nuc-

lear Non-Proliferation Treaty, She praised the role of

She described UNICEF as the shining example of an NGO with a "decade-long focus on child survival. Among the strategies it had pioneered were breast feeding or rehydration therapy

rights, Amnesty Internadonal Women's Day. "Human Rights violation

against women are rampant partly because they remain largely hidden," it said. "Women are the invisible vicoms of the 1990s." Amnesty International cal-

led oo governments to adopt a plan to promote and protect women's human rights. "No country in the world treats its women as well as its men. Women from all social classes, cultures and races, in

all societies, are at risk of

abuse of their human rights,

it said. Women around the world are denied human rights because of deeply rooted discrimination, wars and civil cooflicts, and repression of their political or social activism, it said in the 135-page report.

"A proliferation of situations of armed conflict is devastating women's lives in many quarters of the globe," the report said. "As the 20th century draws to a close, women who have taken no part in conflicts are being murdered, raped and muti-

Most casualties of war are conflict areas women are

Women fleeing conflicts make up 80 per cent of the world's refugee population, and sexual favours are often the price they must pay to safely pass smugglers, border guards and security forces, it

or less ignored human rights violations against women -

campaign to put the human rights of women in the spotlight in the run up to the U.N. Conference on Women in September, it said governments which pay little more than lip service to women's rights must be pushed into

U.N. conference," it said. At the conference in Beij-

mally recognise their responsibility for all human rights violations against women by their security forces, the report said.

ing, governments should for-

ing and preventing violations

of women's human rights. Amnesty International said. Individual governments shoold safeguard the rights of women during armed conflict and stop rape, sexual abuse and other torture or ill-"Governments have more treatment by government agents, it said. Governments should also halt illegal detentions and executions of

women. The wars in Bosnia and Rwanda reminded the world how vulnerable women and their families are during conflicts and "demonstrated that the deliberate violation of the human rights of women is a central component of military strategy in all parts of the world," the report said.

It cited examples of women raped in Chiapas in southern Mexico, where an armed peasant movement took control of several towns in January 1994, and of hundreds of women killed in fighting in Somalia and in Malt in West

Women activists have also been imprisoned, tortured or killed, the report said. It cited examples in Mexico, Indonesia, El Salvador, Burma, China, Iran and UzbekisKate Moss. - - - - - -1 -1 1 -1 -

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THE M.

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Lion King sells 20 million copies in first week

BURBANK, California (AP)

4 A STATE OF THE STA A CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF THE Salah Maria Salah
LOS ANGELES (AP) - tion during which the jurors One of the detectives in charge of the O.J. Simpson case testified he never considered the possibility that Ronald Goldman, not Simp-

Touching on a defence

had never listened to the recording.

lowed.

"Did you ever consider been the targets of the assassin or assassios that particular might? Did you ever consider that at all?" Mr. Cochran

Mr. Cochran then changed

seemed mystified. "Did you ever - as the

Cochran asked. The detective said he had

"Get away from my house," she yelled at a group of reporters who came to interview her.

Nova Aquilae is in the constellation Aquila, or Eagle, and is several thousand light

opportunities for poor girls oo three continents." Mrs. Chinton was speaking on the second day of a weeklong summit aimed at battling poverty, unemployment and

the summit's final two days,

ing us to a safer, more just and unified world."

In what one observer dubbed "Clinton's return to the policial scene," the first lady told the plenary session of delegations "too much time is spent in the naked pursuit of

human and civil rights organisations, stating that they have 'helped improve the lives of tens of millions of men, women, children and families struggling to escape poverty, tyranny and social dislocation."

women and children, and in

and sometimes effectively a green light to torture or rape by their police or soldiers," Amnesty International said. Launching a worldwide

"Governments are now sending worrying signals that they want to limit - rather than promote - women's civil and political rights at the

The conference also should

Video sboppers snapped up a record 20 million copies

that something regarding him or his hackground may have were left oo hold at their Mrs. Clinton said:
"It has become fashionable mers and their families hy Mr. Andreotti appeared oc Anonyme Belge de Construchotel and housekeeper Rosa led some person or persons to killing relatives of established the stand for 10 minutes. He Lopez had her alibi testimony follow him there, to that locaturncoats in a return to the was called as a witness by in receot years to assign videotaped for possible use tioo?" Mr. Cochran asked. blame for the world's probtransverse veodetta. attorneys for Mr. Riina. lems to ooe group of nations or another. I hope that this later in the trial "I bad no evidence at all to "Detective Laoge, you haven't retired yet?" Mr. Cochran joked as Mr. Lange suggest that," Mr. Lange For millions of women, the 1990s has summit is not going to suc-cumh to that temptation." 'And so did you ever purtook the stand.
"Not yet," Mr. Lange Addressing a packed hall sue that or look at it at all?" meant denial of human rights-Amnesty There was nothing to purof delegates, Mrs. Clinton answered in the same deadpan repeatedly stressed the "vital delivery that marked his ear-Prosecutors have said that role of non-governmental LONDON (AP) — For miloften targeted for reprisal acknowledge that all internalier four days of testimooy. organisations", and said "the experience and wisdom of lions of women, the 1990s brought terror, discriminakillings, rape and sexual assault, the report said. Simpson set out to kill his tional human rights standards Mr. Cochran took up ex-wife and that Goldman apply to women and propose where he left off, trying to happeoed upon the scene tion and a denial of human concrete action for promotwheo he went there to return

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Breakaway Muslim forces of

rebel leader Fikret Abdic

have inflicted a major defeat

on the Bosnian army in the

northwestern Bihac enclave,

the rebels' radio station re-

Radio Velkaton said Abdic

forces pushed the Bosnian government army's 5th Corps

back by 10 kilometres south-

ward towards the

government-held town of

Gains were also made east

of the Abdic stronghold of

Velika Kladusa in the north

of the pocket, the radio said.

than 1,000 shells were fired in

the battle, which lasted 24

United Nations peacekeepers in the Bihac enclave

counted only 150 mortar.

artillery or tank rounds since

midnight, Monday, U.N. spokesman Major Herve

Gourmelon told Reuters in

While confirming that the

fighting was to the sonth and

east of Velika Kladusa, Maj.

Gourmelon said it was un-

clear if either side had made

Restrictions on the move-

ment of U.N. troops imposed

by Mr. Abdic's men prevent

the peacekeepers from asses-

On Monday, there was

sporadic shelling of the U.N.-

declared "safe area" of Bihac

town. One shell landed in the

town itself, although there

Radio Velkaton said at

least 50 5th Corps soldiers

had died in the fighring.

Another 100 were captured

or surrendered. Abdic's men

enjoy military support from

WARSAW (R) — Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy took

office declaring war on Po-

land's increasingly dangerous

gangsters and he called key

ministers together Tuesday to

Even hefore President

cahinet in Monday oight, the olic security would be the first ex-Communist Oleksy said r subject on the agenda of the he woold appoint a new infirst meeting of the new gov-

decide how to crush them.

Lech Walesa swore the new

national police chief, Jerzy

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) —

Gunmen killed a leader of a

militant Shiite Muslim orga-

nisation and his bodyguard in

the Pakistan city of Lahore

They said gummen on a motorcycle shot Mohammad

Ali Nagvi, a member of the

Supreme Council of Tehrik-I-

Jafria Pakistan (TJP), as he

drove to work at about eight

a.m. (0300 GMT). Mr. Naqvi, hit in the chest,

died instantly. His bodyguard

was wounded and died in

hospital. Three passersby, two

of them children, were

wounded in the hail of gun-

there was no immediate claim

of responsibility for the kill-

After the attack, TJP sup-

porters staged angry protests on the central Multan Road,

hurning tyres, throwing

stones, smashing car windows

and shooting in the air, wit-

JOHANNESBURG (R) -

South African President Nel-

son Mandela is likely to di-

vorce his estranged wife Win-

nie soon, the couple's

youngest daughter has said.

Zindzi Mandela-

"Officially they are oot yet

pressure on him to distance

himself definitely from her,"

nesses said.

The gummen escaped and

Tuesday, police said.

any significant gains.

sing the situation.

were no casualties.

Sarajevo.

Radio Velka:on said more

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20 million cope

Lion King seils

Hlongwane said in a magazine interview people within the ruling African National Congress (ANC) were put-All Sales ting pressure on the 76-year-old president to divorce Mrs. . . Z 11 grav. 46 divorced. But most likely that will come about, for I sense

> Zindzi said in the interview published in the March issue of South Africa's glossy Thandi magazine. "My father and mother

don't see each other anymore... as if they don't exist for each other," Zindzi added. :

Spokesmen for both Presinent Mandela and Mrs. Mandela refused to comment on

on Bosnian army in Bihac enclave Serbs in Croatia who have formed an alliance with the Muslim leader.

Rebel Muslims inflict major defeat

The United Nations Tuesday expressed concern over the setting up of a joint military command hy Croatia and the Muslim-Croat Bosnian Federation, saying it smacked of war-mongering.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) views the ioint command "with great concern as another indication that both Croatia and Bosnia are trying to move away from the peace process towards renewed confrontation, spokesman Alexander Ivanko said here.

The new command was announced in Zagreh Monday, two weeks after breakaway Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia announced they too had set up a joint military

UNPROFOR admitted the decision to set up the joint command in strict terms regarded only Croatia and Bosnia. But it suggested the move — weeks ahead of a pullout of U.N. forces from Croatia — would fuel tension

in the region.
UNPROFOR's mandate in Croatia ends at the end of next month. And Zagreh has given the 15,000 peacekeepers stationed in the republic until June 30 to complete their withdrawal. They have been hased in the Serb-held Krajina region as a buffer

force since 1992. Croatia has complained that the U.N. force has failed to help it recover Krajina which represents a quarter of its territory. Breakaway Serbs seized the region during the war that broke out in 1991 when Croatia declared independence from former

with these handits posing a

threat to Polish people," Mr.

Oleksy, once a minister in

Poland's last Communist gov-

ernment, told Chief Stanczyk

at a late-evening meeting.

Mr. Oleksy's spokeswoman announced that pub-

o lic security would be the first

ernment and that Mr. Oleksy

"I believe that you will be a ly chair a committee charged a Warsaw car wash.

Gunmen kill Pakistani Shiite leader

tant Sunni Muslim Sipah-I-

Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) orga-

nisation in which scores of

people have been killed in

TJP leader blamed the pro-

"The Punjab government

vincial government for failing

is responsible for this incident

as it has not taken steps to

eliminate terrorist groups," said Sajid Raza, head of the

TJP's Imamia Student Orga-

Mr. Naqvi, the first president of the TJP's militant

student wing, was a doctor at

the prestigious Sheikh Zayed

Hosptial in Lahore and was

chairman of the TJP's Educa-

A married man aged about

40 with a neatly trimmed

beard, Mr. Naqiv was known

as an active, intelligent orga-

an attack in the Punjab pro-

vincial city of Jhang Sunday

in which gummen killed six

vincial assembly member

Mandela to divorce soon – daughter

la, 61, have been separated

Mrs. Mandela who is depu-

ty arts, culture, science and technology minister, has

heen embroiled in con-

troversy on several occasions

before and after the separa-

Last week police raided

her luxury home in Johannes-

burg's Soweto township in

connection with a fraud and a

corruption investigation

while she was on an unantho-

lenged the validity of the

search warrant. Her applica-

tion will be heard on March

President Mandela has

ordered Deputy President

Thabo Mbeki to look into the

charges, which have

threatened Mrs. Mandela's

position in the government

and as the head of the

Women's League of the

Mrs. Mandela has chal-

rised trip to West Africa.

His assassination followed

tional Council.

The TJP has been locked in people, including former pro-

since 1992.

recent months.

to ensure security.

would convoke and personal-

Yngoslavia.
The joint command, to be headed by Croatian Armed Forces chief General Janko Bobetko, a 76-year-old former Yugoslav commander, was set up under the terms of the Washington accord that led to the setting up of a Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia a year ago and paved the way for confederation with Croatia.

Croatian President Franjo Todjman insisted: "This agreement is not aimed at a third party."

But Croatian television quoted Gen. Bobetko as saying the joint command would be used to "protect the territories, horders and populations living within the federation and confederation and to create the conditions for a return of refugees to their homes

Up to 300,000 Croats fled their homes in the Krajina region, and perhaps as many Serbs have left government-controlled Croatia.

"It is appropriate to coordinate the political efforts of Croatia and the (Bosnia-Herzegovina) Federation, in particular hecause of Croatia's decision to end the mandate of the U.N. peacekeepers," also said. Mr. Tudjman

Bosnian army chief General Rasim Delic and the commander of Croat forces in Bosnia, General Tihomil Blaskic, were also appointed to the new command.

The three generals agreed last might to coordinated action, but joint headquarters haven't been set up yet," Bosnian Federation vicepresident Ejup Genic was quoted as saying Tuesday.

known opponent of the SSP.

Jhang, where SSP leader

Azam Tariq has his head-

quarters, was calm Tuesday

amid tough security mea-

sures. He said three police

armoured personnel carriers

were patrolling the streets

and many arrests had been

Meanwhile, Murtaza Bhut-

to, estranged brother of

Prime Minister Benazir

launch a rival political move-

Ms. Bhutto's government

has "pushed the country to

the verge of economic col-

lapse," Murtaza Bhntto said

Monday evening. "The soon-

er the government is ousted,

the better for the country."

Murtaza Bhutto, 41, faces

a host of legal problems and

has inspired only limited poli-

tical support since his 1993

return from 16 years in exile.

Most observers see him as a

nuisance, but not a serious

He said Mr. Mbeki had

tried to get in touch with Mrs. Mandela Monday.

"The whole thing is very complicated with the police investigation still underway,

but obviously her trip to West

Africa will have to be discus-

sed. That was against the

Mrs. Mandela's spokes-

man, Alan Reynolds, said

her legal application had to take precedence. "The legal

matters must take prece-

dence right now. I think that

will be her first priority."
Police have said they are

investigating allegations that

she used her position and

infinence to win low-cost

housing contracts in the

Ganteng region around

Johannesburg for a firm in

which she had financial in-

Zindzi said the pressure

her father was being put

under to divorce, came from

president's wishes," Mr.

Naidoo said.

terests.

threat to Ms. Bhutto!

ment on March 15.

said he plans to

A police spokesman said

saw the railway hridge that Polish premier declares war on gangs was the last span across the Rhine 50 years ago. "I was happy to see it, that's for sure," he said. "We could always get stuff across the river by air, hut if we didn't have the hridge we couldn't get big things like trucks across." commander...who will deal with fighting organisd crime. with these handits posing a Polish cities have heen rocked by increasingly frequent bomh hlasts as rival

gangs settle scores, intimi-date victims or fight for turf. In 1994, there were 141 bombs found or planted, of Astonished that their demolition charges failed at the which 82 went off, while this crucial moment and left the year there have been nine hridge intact for the advance ing allies, German defenders bomb hlasts in Warsaw 'alone. Just before Mr. Olektried their best to knock it sy was sworn in another dedown with artillery, aerial vice was found and defused in hombs, rockets and even frogmen.

Veterans

recall the

bridge at

Remagen

Rhine hridge's capture that

Armoured Division returned

to the sleepy town where they

made history a half-century

ago hy capturing the bridge,

letting the allies pour men

and heavy equipment into the

hastened in large or in small

measure the end of the war in.

Europe. And anything that

shortens a war hy even five

minutes deserves com-

memoration," said Major General George Ruhlen, head of the division's veter-

It was a day for the veter-ans, many hack in Europe for

the first time in 50 years, to

reminisce, to swap war stor-ies with old huddies and to

meet German counterparts

they once saw only through

Squeezed into parts of

their old uniforms and squint-

ing in the hright sunshine that

lit up American and German

flags flying from the hlack-

ened towers that are all that

remain of the span, old sol-

diers turned their thoughts to

"I had a lot of good friends

who never came back," said

Colonel Rohert Dill from

Winchester, Kansas, who was

a supply officer when he first

days of youth and danger.

"The seizure of this hridge

German heartland.

ans group.

gunsights.

to become allies.

"I remember that it looked like a sheet of fire as German planes came hy," Mr. Dill ing and it looked like the air was filled with nothing hut hullets."

Stanley Dihhle from Middiehury, Connecticut manned an artillery hattery near the hridge he had been shocked to see still standing. Enemy fire was so intense that he often had to climb into holes and cover up to save himself.

"It was the first time we had ever seen a jet," he recalled. "We did not know what they were as they came zipping across the sky. Finally we got the order to just stop firing because we could not hit them."

For Dale Taylor of Ahilene, Kansas, the return to Remagen was his first trip back to Europe since the war. "I wasn't worried about coming back. I was worried ahout getting home," he said as a hus carrying him and his buddies rolled through town on the way to ceremonies

marking the day.

The hridge stood only 10 days before it collapsed into the Rhine on March 17, sweeping 28 U.S. soldiers to their deaths. But by that time pontoon bridges were carrying streams of material onto the Rhine's eastern

"Do you know why the hridge collapsed? Saint Patrick heard that the British were coming and he was damned if he was going to let them get across that easy," joked John Leonard Jr., son of the 9th armoured Division

commander at that time. German veterans said they knew the war was lost long before the allies took the "We were convinced that

the taking of the hridge would have no impact on the course of the war," said Lieutenant-Major Karl Thieme, the armoured infantry commander who led an unsuccessful counterattack. "It was senseless what happened here."

He and other German officers spoke highly of their erstwhile enemies, especially of the respect German units

De Gaulle's son supports Chirac

Balladur set to fight back

PARIS (Agencies) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur will now launch a challenger's campaign for the French REMAGEN, Germany (R)
- American and German presidency in a bid to bounce back from the collapse of his veterans of World War II popularity in opinion polls, gathered Tuesday to mark according to his top electoral the 50th anniversary of a key

Spokesman Nicolas Sarhelped shorten the war and kozy said Mr. Balladur, who pave the way for their nations has been overtaken by his main rightwing rival Paris Hundreds of U.S. soldiers Mayor Jacques Chirac seven who fought with the 9th weeks before the first round of voting, was sufferiog from a "regular heavy shelling" from his opponents, but insisted he would survive.

"It would be astonishing if the opinion polls didn't go down, considering the regular heavy shelling under way against both his actions and him in person," Mr. Sarkozy

"Now that the polls have gone donw, we have to be-have like the challenger, and that is fine by us. We have to be a good player."
Interior Minister Charles

Pasqua, the conservative premier's right-hand man, said be was "very optimistic" about Mr. Balladur's chances of fighting hack, and said the prime minister would not change tack to please voters who opinion polls indicate have deserted him in large numbers in recent weeks.

Mr. Balladur, for months the clear frontrunner in the race to succeed President Francois Mitterrand, has in the last two weeks seen his poll lead of more than 20 points collapse against both Mr. Chirac and leftwing challenger Lionel Jospin.

Three polls in the last five days have given Mr. Chirac a lead in the race for the first time, sparking pressure on the Balladur camp to rethink its strategy.

"The most stupid thing a candidate could do would be to present himself not as he but how his advisors think he should be," said Mr. Pas-



French Prime Minister and conservative presidential candidate Edouard Balladur (centre) flanked by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua (left), and Defence Minister François Leotard

(right), delivers a speech in Nice, on the French Riviera, where he laid the foundation stone of the town's new university (AFP photo)

qua. "M. Balladur is how he is. He is a calm, serene man. He must stay that way." In a reference to Mr. Balladur's conceived complacen-

cy, he added: "But he must also give the French people the feeling that his calmness does not exclude determina-And he added: "It is quite normal that the prime minister should drop in the polls

announces his candidacy, and becomes a target for every-"We now have to begin the electoral battle ourselves. We have not yet done so."

from the moment he

The son of late French President Charles De Gaulle gave symbolic weight to the pesidential hid of Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac Tuesday, defending him from charges of hetraying his father's legacy.
Philippe De Ganlle, a

French senator, wrote in an article in the daily Le Figaro

that his father's ideas would ities are unquestionable, to "no longer have counted as a political force" without Mr. Chirac, who founded the neo-Ganllist Rally For the Republic (RPR) party in

Opponents accuse Mr. Chirac, a former prime minister who overtook Mr. Balladur last week in opinion polls ahead of the April-May election, of veering left to court

But Philippe De Gaulle quoted his fathter as saying in 1965: "France isn't the left, France isn't the right" it's everyone, it's the entire French people."

Philippe De Gaulle also hit out at Mr. Balladur, backed hy almost all his cabinet ministers to succeed President Francois Mitterrand, for joining the race last month when Mr. Chirac was the sole RPR candidate.

"It would have been preferable... to have let the prime minister, whose qualcontinue governing" to avoid what Mr. De Gaulle called a regrettable double candida-

Philippe De Gaulle rejected suggestions Mr. Balladur was a better candidate for unity, saying Mr. Chirac had worked "without respite to unite all political and social movements not hurdened by a systematic and sectarian opposition to the general."

Meanwhile, Socialist Party presidential candidate Lionel Jospin unveiled his campaign platform Tuesday, putting the fight against France's chronic johlessness at the heart of his bid for the Elysee

The leftwing leader, who has led the French left from disarray to become a key contender in next month's poll, also urged a wide raft of measures to bring France out of what he called its "crisis," including a new tax on speculative investment.

Moscow mayor threatens to quit over sackings

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow's kov, said Tuesday he would go ahead with a threat to resign unless President Boris Yeltsin cancelled the sackings of the city's top law enfor-

Mr. Luzhkov, seen as a potential rival to Mr. Yeltsin in the 1996 presidential elections, added that if Monday's formal dismissal of prosecutor Gennady Ponomaryov and Police Chief Vladimir Pankratov were not rescinded he would challeoge the legality of the decisions in the courts.

Mr. Luzhkov's announcement was a challenge to Mr. Yeltsin to reverse a process he himself started hy publicly calling for the dismissal of the two men following the mafiastyle murder on March 1 of television celehrity Vladislav Listvey.

The murder of Mr. Listyev, 38, a top anchorman and chat show host known to millions across the former Soviet Union, plunged Russia into grief and raised fresh public concern about the ahility of the authorities to combat organised crime.

Mr. Luzhkov, a one-time political ally of Mr. Yeltsin, has increasingly steered an independent line. He has fought a long campaign to exempt Moscow from the government's privatisation

Mr. Luzhkov, quoted by Interfax News Agency, said Russian Interior Minister Viktore Yerin (cen- . the bead of Russia's intelligence, listen. The

Pavel Grachev (right) and Yevgeni Primakov,

tre) gestures during his speech at the sitting of Security Council was discussing the crime the State Security Council as Defence Minister situation in Russia (AFP photo)

amounted to a "violation of the constitution, the law of the police and the president's decree on the police in Mos-

But Oleg Lobov, secretary of Russia's Security Council which met Monday to discuss law and order, said Tuesday the dismissal of the two men had been supported by all members of the Council.

Mr. Lobov told a news conference the council wanted some \$110 million, slashed from the 1995 draft hndget, to be reinstated to fund the fight against crime.

He said the government had proposed one trillion rouhles (\$220 million) of hudget money be spent on fighting crime hut that deputies had halved this at the third reading of the draft.

"I think that at the fourth reading the Duma deputies

the dismissal of the two men have got to come hack to this question in connection with recent events."

He said the council, chaired by Mr. Yeltsin and grouping the main law enforcement and defence bodies, also wanted parliament to pass a law to protect In a two-hour discussion

Monday of the worsening crime situation, which Mr. Lohov said was prompted by Mr. Listyev's killing, the Security Council also discussed the need to improve the training of investigators.

The council, which condemned the Interior Ministry. Security Police and prosecutors for falling down on the joh, said no improvement had been seen in the fight against crime.

Mr. Lobov said 2.6 million crimes were committed last year, including 32,000 mur-

ders, of which about a million were unsolved.

had failen by about 100,000 from 1993 hut the number still not solved had risen. Three suspected hired killers have heen detained for questioning over the slaying

The total number of crimes

of Mr. Listyev, police said Tuesday.

Quoted by the news agency ITAR-TASS, they said the three men had recently arrived in Moscow from Siberia and were also suspected of

killing several oil industry ex-

ecutives in the Russian capit-Kremlin officials, police and the media all maintain that Mr. Listyev, 3g, was the victim of a contract killing organised by husinessmen who were trying to block television advertising reforms aimed at ending massive cor-

Election violence kills 11 people in India

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 11 people died in electionrelated violence in two Indian regions as the eastern state of Orissa went to the polls Tuesday in a fresh test for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party.

Six people, including three candidates and a Railway Police constable, were killed Monday during the first phase of local elections in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, police said. At least five people died in

a clash between suspected Maoist extremists and vilagers in the eastern state of Bihar, local news agencies reported.

mission had postponed assembly polls to give the state time to deploy thousands of security troops. Voting will start Saturday.

The Bihar government replaced a senior hureaucrat and the state police chief Monday after the Election Commission complained that lack of coordination between the two had jeopardised security.

Campaigning in Bihar. Tuesday, Mr. Rao said the replacement of the two officials "spoke volumes about the hreakdown of law and

government of turning the state into a hackward region, PTI said. He said 25,000 people had been killed there since the last assembly elections in 1990, adding: "At least Bihar is in the forefront in one sphere."

Bihar and Orissa are among six states holding assembly elections that are considered crucial to Mr. Rao's government.

Voting hegan peacefully Tuesday in Orissa, where 58,000 police were deployed in sensitive areas, state officials said.

defeats in three of four states that held elections late last

Last month Congress emerged as the largest party in the small northeastern state of Manipur, the only state in the current round of polls where votes have already been counted.

But it rules over a hung assembly, and a coalition of other parties in Manipur has challenged Congress's grip on DOWET.

Congress is expected to stay in power in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, but to lose control over the Western state of Gujarat and remain in the opposition in Orissa and

The state elections have no Mr. Mbeki's spokesman within the ANC. gage Si-"Closing the Winnie Man-Ricky Naidoo said the deputy were accorded when they order in the state," the Press direct bearing on the comthe likelihood of divorce position of parliament in New capitulated at war's end. This Trust of India (PTI) represident had received a letsaying the matter was pridela period will also be an 4-43 Nearly 50 people have Delhi, hnt Mr. Rao's authorhelped veterans organisater from Mrs. Mandela, end to the militant part of his ity was shaken when his rultions on both sides forge Mr. Rao accused the been killed in Bihar, where saying she could not meet The president who spent 27 life. That is their idea," she opposition Janata Dal state ing Congress Party suffered the Federal Election Comclose ties. years in jail and Mrs. Mandehim immediately. ATT 1.

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Litmus test of faith

THE ADDRESS delivered by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the opening session of Tuesday's meeting on the fate of the Palestinians displaced by the 1967 war was more of a lesson in obfuscation than a real attempt to solve the issue at hand. Not that it came as any surprise, since Israel has been doing its best to veil its commitment to accepting the right of all displaced Palestinians to return to their homes or receive compensation as a matter of individual choice.

The Israelis are mistaken if they seriously think that confusing and stalling on the right of return is the answer to solving the difficult issues that lie ahead on the road to comprehensive and lasting peace. They should know that without respecting their own commitment and international legitimacy, the climate conducive to achieving breakthroughs will never materialise.

We hope we are wrong, but we think that what Mr. Peres sought to do in the Amman meeting on Tuesday was to undermine the Palestinians' right of return by raising ambiguous questions over numbers, modalities, timetables, and by appealing to the international community to help build infrastructure to absorb them without making a definite Israeli commitment to respect U.N. resolutions and accords with the three Arab parties he was meeting with.

Little consideration was given to the commitments Israel undertook in its Camp David agreement with Egypt, its declaration of principles with the Palestinians and the peace treaty it signed with Jordan in October, we thought.

We have no quarrel with the Israeli argument that the return of the displaced Palestinians should take place in an orderly fashion without disrupting the stability of any of the parties involved. We also do realise how difficult it is to imagine the massive return of hundreds of thousands of people in one go to a land which lacks the basic infrastructure and holds out all prospects of a socio-economic upheaval in the event of a huge infusion of people. But that does not mean that the sacred right of return can be

What we would have liked to hear from Mr. Peres is simple and clear: Israel recognises and respects the right of the Palestinians who were forced to flee their homes during the 1967 war and that it is ready to work out the modalities and timetables for their return home in a well-organised manner.

Beyond such a commitment, the reality is that an Israeli pledge that it would respect the Palestinians' rights and is ready to allow their return home, would have gone a good way towards shoring up the sagging support on Arab streets for the autonomy accord. By sending an unmistakable message that Israel intends to place as many obstacles as possible in the way of achieving Palestinians' legitimate rights, Israel can only retard the cause of peace.

This is a crucial phase in which everybody has to show good faith. The Israelis, who have always sought to win confidence-building measures from the Arabs, have to prove they are ready with theirs. It should not be too difficult for them to honour their own commitments as far as the issue of the displaced Palestinians is concerned.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST for Al Ra'i Arabic daily attacked the U.S. administration for trying to starve and murder the Iraqi people and for finding excuses to perpetuate the U.N. sanctions. The U.S. administration lies to the world when it says that it is imposing a blockade on the Iraqis to force a change of government in Baghdad, because the same administration is imposing an embargo also on the Kurds in the north. Tareq Masarweh said. The Americans who committed crimes in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with their atomic bombs, are intent on repeating the crime and murdering 18 million Arabs and Kurds, the writer said. What is clear now is Washington's desire to control 'the destiny of the Iraqi people by imposing further hamiliation on the Iraqis and trying to seize their oil wealth and secure business solely for the American firms. Blaming Turkey for not doing enough to end the embargo that has cost Ankara \$20 billion in lost business so far, the writer said that Turkey is paying the price of alligning itself with the Western coalition in the war against Iraq.

DISCUSSING a meeting in Amman by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt. Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Al Dustour daily said that the talks which focus on the destiny of displaced Palestinians were of paramount importance for the peace process to achieve success. Israel was being put to the test again and the Arab parties, which had already reached a common stand over the repatriation of the Palestinians, would be watching to see if Israel was committed to the implementation of the declaration of principles reached with the PLO. said the paper. The meeting in Amman assumed significance not only because it was held at the foreign ministers level but rather due to the crucial question at hand, the paper noted. Indeed, if Israel failed to live up to its commitments and implement its deals with the Arabs on the basis of justice and right, the whole peace process could Washington Watch

The necessity for pressure on administration

THE ISSUE of whether or not to use public pressure to affect Israeli government actions and/or policies is one that confronts every U.S. administration.

On the single issue of granting \$10 billion in loan guarantees to the Israeli government in 1991, the Bush administration used such pressure. The effect of this tactic on the U.S. Jewish community was somewhat traumatic, but it succeeded in forcing a debate within the Israeli body politic, and ultimately achieved a

democratic change of government in Israel.

While many of Israel's supporters continue to deny that Bush's actions contributed to Yitzhak Rabin's victory over Yitzhak Shamir and the Liked, there is no doubt that the question of the worsening of U.S.-Israeb relations brought on by Mr. Shamir's policy fit in with Mr. Rabin's campaign themes and played an important role in his electoral success.

The fight over the loan guarantees, however, was a single exceptional act of the U.S. administration. As soon as Mr. Rabin was elected, the Bush administration approved the loan guaranwas ejected, the Bush administration approved the loan guarantees to Israel on terms that provided significant loopholes in implementation. In doing so, Mr. Bush failed to take advantage of the change in attitude his action achieved, actually giving the Israelis more generous terms than the Congress wished to impose. The question of whether or not to use public pressure in dealing with Israel has been an issue for President Bill Clinton as well. In 1992, seeking to establish the differences he had with the Bush administration, then Democratic candidate for President Clinton remarked that as president, he would not use public

Bush administration, then Democratic candidate for President Clinton remarked that as president, he would not use public pressure to alter Israeli behaviour. Specifically concerning Israeli settlements and the question of guaranteeing loans for Israeli. Mr. Clinton stated: "Certainly the settlement policy (of the Israeli government) has not been helpful to the peace process," but "what I do no in private is different from what I would do in public."

In fact, on most Middle East issues, candidate Clinton (and, since the election, President Clinton) has followed the same basic approach outlined by his predecessor in the White House. The one glaring difference is that one-time use of public pressure by the Bush administration on the Shamir government

Mr. Clinton's commitment to refrain from using public pressure has characterised the way his administration has dealt with the

Middle East peace process since the 1992 election.

During his confirmation hearings before the Senate, U.S. designate ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk spoke of this commitment as one of the five operating principles that the Clinton administration has "established for the conduct of the state and Israel " relations with the state of Israel."

In his Senate testimony Mr. Indyk, who for the past two years served as director of Near East and South Asian Affairs on President Clinton's National Security Council, said: "The fourth guiding principle is that in pursuing this peace, and in recognition of the fact that Israel is our democratic ally with which we share common values and common interests, this administration will work with the government of Israel, not against h. Where we have differences, as is inevitable, even with the closest of allies, we will work them out in private, and we do work them out in private." While this policy has its strong supporters within the adminis-

tration, there are also some who question it as well. But the proponents of no pressure hold sway in the policy debates. Their view is based both on their perception of what they view as "real politics" (after all, they might suggest, look at the political price Mr. Bush paid for his one-time act of alienating Israel's supporters) and a deeply held belief that given the volatility of Israeli politics, more can be accomplished with quiet diplomacy. I believe that both of these viewpoints are misguided.

An analysis of the U.S.-Israeli relationship since the election of Mr. Rabin in mid-1992 shows a remarkable consistency between the Bush-Baker and the Clinton-Christopher tenures. When necessary. Mr. Clinton denied Israel and its supporters favours they sought. For example convicted spy Jonathan Pollard was not ed, the sale of supercomputers to Israel was denied, and Mr. Indyk himself took a strong stand in cautioning the U.S. Senate against taking steps to move the U.S. embassy to

Even Secretary of State Warren Christopher's handling of Mr. Rabin's outrageous expulsion of 400 Palestinians to Lebanon bore a strong similarity to Mr. Baker's ultimate compromise with Mr. Rabin on the issue of settlements and loan guarantees. In both cases, the U.S. agreed to accept short-term violations of rights in an effort to secure long-term Israeli compliance with a principle.

While the Clinton administration does prod Israel on a regular basis, it does so very quietly and out of public view on issues

affecting the peace process and Israel's relationship with the And, of course, the fact remains that the peace process is in deep trouble. New settlements are being built, Arab Jerusalem has become a virtual no-man's land, and Israel's extreme

preoccupation with security has frustrated even the most modest

Palestinian hopes for peace. Intense public pressure, both Israeli and American, is placed on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to take stern measures against his domestic opposition — and not only those who commit acts of violence. And today the right-wing opposition in Israel is the driving force in that country's political debate; that is, while the Rabin government attempts to hold its line, it is forever responding to Likud attacks on its policies and challenges to its legitimacy. As a result, Mr. Rabin is frequently forced to accommodate this pressure from the right by shifting his policy

All of this is, in fact, due to the absence of U.S pressure on Israel and its policies which negatively impact chances for peace. Such U.S. pressure, if applied would once again force the Israelis themselves to debate their actions affecting the peace process, and could actually provide a counterweight in Rabin's favour against the Likud charges.

Not all of Mr. Clinton's advisors or supporters of Israel agree with University of California at Los Appeles (UCLA) Professor

with University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Professor Steven Speigel (who advised the Clinton foreign policy team during the 1992 presidential election). Speaking recently at a forum at the UCLA School of Law, Professor Speigel spoke favourably of what he termed the Clinton administration's "laissez faire" stance towards the peace process, and contrasted it with what be called the negative Bush-Baker interventionist policy. It was this "hands-off" appreach which Dr. Speigel credited with bringing the Israelis and PLO to Oslo, bringing the Israelis and Jordanians together, and so on.

While I would argue vehemently against this view, it is important to note that not all Israelis or even Jewish American

Clinton advisors agree with Dr. Speigel's assessment. At an earlier time in the peace process (November of 1992). Israeli columnist Ran Kislev wrote in Ha tretz of the need for U.S. public pressure to move Israel twoards a peace settlement.

Mr. Risley wrote, in part: "A government moving in such a direction will bave to face tremendous domestic pressure, not only from the settlers, who are threatening civil yar, or the Likud, which is ready to lead thousands into the streets, but pressure from within the government and Labour's bydy hawkish camp. The government will need counterpressure, not pecessarily of the kind inherent in the empty threats of Peace Now, What is needed is pressure from a position of strength — that is, U.S. pressure."

Professor Michael Mandelbaum, another 1992 Clinton advisor, has also noted earlier examples of successful U.S. public pressure."

leading Israeli governments to do what they seeded to do. Describing U.S. pressures on Israel in 1975 to achieve a disengagement agreement with Egypt, Professor Mandelbaum

Israel's leaders were not altogether unhappy with (U.S.) ressure. They wanted agreement with their neighbours... but this required concessions and the Israeli public was wary of surrendering territory... The government found it convenient to blame American pressure, which they could say left them no choice but to yield."

In the absence of a strong public critique of Israeli actions—
Palestinians— and Israelis, who want this peace process to work, stand defenceless against an angry public opinion that is incited by the demagognery of the leaders of the Israeli right wing.

The distortion in the Palestinian and Israeli societies which the process of pressure on Israeli societies in this set the

result from this absence of pressure on Israel has in turn set the stage for a tragedy. The window of opportunity that exists for the peace process is rapidly closing. It will not be so easy to recapture the hope brought on by the bandshake on the White House lawn

almost 18 months ago.

If this moment passes, 1 fear that there will be serious negative consequences for the entire region and for the U.S. role in the Middle East. There are those in the administration who truly understand the nature and the depth of this crisis and the urgency

Of all the tonls at their disposal to combat this crisis, the mechanism of public pressure is glaring in its absence. In an effort to bring it to bear on the problem, it is worth noting that such pressure need not be negative and critical. It could be positive and constructive - but it must be used. It would be an important complement to the other political and economic assets in the ministration's arsenal.

It is essential that such pressure be brought into the equation. Because only a strong external pressure can alter the negative public debate that is disabling both the Israeli and Palestmian leaderships. And only a change in the distorting debate in Israel can restore a sense of bope and a vision of the possibilities of



Death toll list reminds Algerians that the worst is still to come

By John Baggaley Reuter

NICOSIA - The chilling statistic of slaughter released for the first time by Algeria's military authorities at the weekend -6.388 civilians slain in one year - is only a bloody signal of worse to come, diplomats said on Sunday. Algeria's security forces, whose own death toll in the grim war against Muslim fundamentalists is rigorous-

ly suppressed, issued the list without comment as Eid Al Fitr, one of the Muslim country's main festivals, en-"They are trying to get the people on their side and prepare them for more vi-

cious attacks to come," said one Western diplomat in the region who has closely followed the three-year-old Algerian conflict.

"For such figures, it was a very bland announcement. It will be interesting to see if they follow up in the next few days."

The death toll just of civilians, which another diplomat termed a "vast onderestimate," showed that in 1994 more than 17 ordinary Algerians were killed every single day.

No segment of Algeria's 26-million, largely povertystricken population, was

safe. The dead included 21 journalists murdered, 682 civil servants, 101 teachers, 2,207 workers, 1,384 of the unemployed who form more than one-fifth of those

of working age.
Seven top officials were also gunned down, along with 15 magistrates, 52 mosque preachers or imams, the leaders of two political parties, a singer and a regional wall, or governor.

"The security forces are losing the battle," said another diplomat "But maybe the authorities think that by putting out the figures they can show the danger facing ordinary peo-ple and that if they don't back the authorities it will be even worse.'

Already this year, the toll has soared among civilians. Death bas come suddenly, anywhere. Like last Friday when 15 men broke into a Palestinian student's home east of Algiers, dragged him out and slit his throat, dumping his body 100 yards away.

In sunlit, crowded Port Said Square in the centre of the capital, where last month in the early afternoon the national theatre director was gunned down

outside his own theatre. Or in a Kabyli mountain village where a taxidriver

was puried alive. Beheadings, shootings, bombings, torture, and the slitting of throats - of men, women and even children, lie behind the unemotional figures cited by the security forces and carried on the official news agency APS.

According to Western estimates late last year, at least 30,000 people have been killed since violence erupted after the authorities in January 1992 scrapped a general election that Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win.

Many more bave been killed this year, including at least 42 officiallyacknowledged dead in a January suicide bomb carried out in central Algiers by the feared armed Islamic group (GIA). Another diplomat sug-

gested that issuing the death toll could be aimed at easing foreign pressure on the authorities over last month's bloody suppression of a mainly-fundamentalist riot in Algiers Serkadji Prison near the Casbah.

Nearly 100 prisoners were slain when security forces moved in after four warders, held hostage, had their throats slit.

"They may also be doing it to try to swing the people hehind president (Liamine) Zeroval's plan to hold presidential elections this year effectively telling the people they have no choice. between that or continuing to be killed," he said.

Diplomats say that despite efforts by France, Germany and Belgium to crack down on arms supplies and a logistical net-work to the GIA and the other main armed group, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the groups seem to have no shortage of

The GIA, which bijacked an Air France plane after a French crackdown on Islamists in France, at the weekend warned Belgium of reprisals if men detained in a similar swoop were not "There seems no im-

mediate prospect of them lacking the means to continue their fight," said one diplomat recently. "They also have a well-structured support system — transport, medical supplies, bomb-making facilities. One big worry is on the other side — equipment and ammunition for the armed forces.

"A lot is being stolen by the Islamists and the Algerians are not finding too many people to sell to

U.S. leaders differ on world role

What role should the U.S. assume in the new world order era? Walter R. Mears of the Associated Press analyses the question:

sions of America's world ity to use U.S. troops under role, they talked like allies on foreign commanders. Mr. the need for U.S. leadership but sounded like rivals on where and bow to enforce it. President Bill Clinton complained of new isolationists, aiming at Republicans. an accusation that is sure to re-

sound through his campaign for a second term next year. Bob Dole, leader of the new Republican majority in the Senate, came with a list of what he deems missteps by the administration. He said pre-emptive military action could one day be needed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. Mr. Dole seeks the Republican nomination to challenge the president in 1996.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Republican who says he is not running for president, was in his professorial mode. He concentrated on economic and other common interests as the way to weld a high-technology world. But he also declared that "the United States must lead, period" with tough-minded policies and a military so powerful as to dominate whenever it must.

While the president took on isolationism, the real debate isn't over U.S. power and leadership but, rather, wbether to proceed internationally or unilaterally, with Americans picking the spots and callilng the shots.

Mr. Clinton took the occasion, a conference sponsored by the Richard M. Nixon Library, to underline the point that he's in charge and he'll make the decisions. He announced one on the spot, the withdrawal of 200 tonnes of nuclear weapons materials from the U.S. stockpile to show his commitment to a strengthened and permanent nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Earlier, after conferring with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, Mr. Clinton dealt with his chief dispute with the House Republicans, saying he intends to keep the United States involved in U.N. peacekeeping missions and not "walk away as some sug-gest we should" in Congress.

"It is a policy that under our constitution I can pursue as long as I am the president," he said, adding that Congress could deny him the

The House has voted to cut

WASHINGTON — When Washington's three most-powerful figures defined vi-

Gingrich was vehement about imposing those restrictions, part of a Republican foreign policy bill the White House bas threatened to veto if it gets there. That's up to the Senate, sure to revise the measure if it passes at all. The speaker didn't men-

tion that disputed issue at the policy conference; be said there's a need "to erase the board" and change old systerns to deal with a new world, on matters of defence, technology and, particularly, trade. He suggested a free trade. He suggested a free trade zone encompassing Europe as well as North America. And he said the alternative to U.S. world leadership is "a dark and bloody planet" in the 21st

"I am always curious when 🗧 there is some presumption we 😕 are in any way isolationist." he said. There is.

You get the impression that there is a certain tenden-cy toward isolationism, stepping back somewhat from the international scene, Manual Connect C Kok said at the White House last week. "And that would be very riskful, to put it of the bear of the b

against it at the Nixon conference. "There, is a struggle going on herween those of us who want to carry on the tradition of American lead ership and those who would advocate a new American isolationism," he said.

No names, and he said the tendency spans party lines. He then called it hypocritical to trumpet American strength while opposing is use in places like Haiti — as Mr. Dole does — and U.N. peacekeeping.

Mr. Dole's line was toughest. notably on nuclear

"Preventive military action as a non-proliferation policy tool cannot be ruled out," be said. "Like it or not, it cannot ? be ruled out." He called Mr. : Clinton's misguided "Russia" first policy" that papers over major policy differences.

He said the administration is timidly pleading rather than vowing a veto if there is an attempt to ease U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

The senator is simply misinformed," said Mr. Clinton's national security adviser, Anthony Lake.;

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OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Three months after Palestinian television began broadcasting hardly anyone can pick up the pictures as negotiations drag on with Israel over transmitter sites, frequencies and equipment imports.

Western aid has proved barely a trickle while talks with the Jewish state about frequencies and setting up transmitters have bogged down and Israeli customs hold up the arrival of free equipment.

But the setbacks have not undermined the determination of Radwan Abu Ayash, the director of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation

"I really believe that all Palestinian homes will be able to watch Palestinian television before the end of the year," he told AFP. The PBC was conceived

with the 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy followed by a formal agreement to set up the service signed on Feh. 23 last year. Staff worked for 18 months

on a volunteer basis to get the project off the ground. As the PBC still has no budget, salary advances have been paid recently by the Palestinian Anthority. Journalists receive about \$400 a month

"We want to set up our headquarters in Ramallah because the town is the only one which is high enough for our broadcasts to cover all the West Bank," Mr. Abu Ayash

"Israel has not agreed and insists that the headquarters Arafat.

going through birth pangs be in Gaza or Jericho. But we have already bought a fivestorey building in Ramallah and we will set up our televi-

sion there whether Israel wants it or not." However, the director said the two sides were nearing an

agreement on frequencies. Britain and the United States supplied some equipment but the PBC is still short of two powerful transmitters to cover the West

"Israeli customs held up a gift of studio equipment from Germany for four months demanding payment of duty. The duty was not paid and the equipment was sent back to Germany. The same thing happens

with all the equipment. At best, it's been held up hy customs for two or three months and at worst sent back to the donor country. "The agreement signed with Israel stipulates that donations of television equipment are free of duty," Mr.

He added that Israel was also preventing the return home of some qualified Palestinians needed to help run the PBC. About 150 people put out

Abu Ayash said.

an eight-hour "experimental" programme ev-ery day in Gaza City. But only those living close

hy the transmission van parked outside PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's office can pick up the pictures. News bulletins are dominated by what Mr. Arafat is doing the news team works from the same building as Mr.

Shin Bet concerned over report of comptroller TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's Perry was the organisation's

security service, the Shin Bet, is reorganising its interroga-tions division and trying to end the use of force during questioning, a senior security source said. The Yediot Aharonot daily

said Monday that a secret report prepared a month ago by state comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat criticised the agency's interrogation methods and said it continued a practice of covering them up. A top official in Shin Bet

confirmed that the agency was concerned the comptroller's report would lead to a criminal investigation of some of the interrogators and their superiors.

"The whole issue emharrasses the Shin Bet." said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The revelations came a week after former Shin Bet chief Yaacov Perry, whose identity had been a secret during his seven-year term, retired and was revealed to the general public.

On Monday Mr. Perry testified behind closed doors before parliament's comptroller committee. He told Channel Two Television that the leaked report in the newspaper was "very grave," but refused to provide any other details from his testimony.

Security sources said agency lawyers were already preparing a defence in case Mr. Ben-Porat decided to recommend that charges be pressed against Mr. Perry.

years 1989 to 1992, when Mr.

senior administrator. It makes reference to a

1987 inquiry commission on Shin Bet techniques, headed hy Justice Moshe Landau, that criticised the agency for vears of systematic perjury but permitted the use of "mild physical pressure" in interrogations. According to Yediot, the new report finds that in

several cases the Shin Bet went beyond what was permissible according to the Landau commission. The official said the agen-

cy's new chief, who may only be referred to as K., has the organisation's interrogation division. 'From many of the reports

it can be understood that we have a free hand to torture," a senior security source said, To part of the public and

maybe some of the interrogators, it is not clear, so we will write it on every door, what is and is not allowed," the security source said. "We don't even need the

'moderate physical pressure' permitted by the Landan commission, except in extreme cases where it can be specifically approved by the prime minister," the source said.

K. was not involved in interrogations during the years covered in the report, Yediot

Shin Bet, whose very existence was once a state secret. is in charge of preventing "terrorism," suppressing The report focuses on the Palestinian insurgency and rooting out spies.

Environment expert freed on bail in Lebanon BEIRUT (AFP) - An en-

vironmental expert arrested for allegedly giving false testi-mony on Lehanon's toxic waste scandal was released on hail Monday, legal offi-

Pierre Malichef was arrested a week ago by the judge in charge of an investigation into the entry of 16.000 barrels and 20 containers of toxic waste into Lehanon from ahroad in 1987-1988

Mr. Malichef, who also serves as a state consultant, was accused of spreading false information, fabricating evidence and inciting others to deform the truth. He encouraged witnesses

"to state that their illnesses or the death of relatives was brought about by toxic subst-Fances despite medical reports to the contrary," the official news agency ANI reported. Mr. Malichef has said in a

television debate that toxic waste was scattered around the whole country.

A legal official said Mr. Malichef was released after retracting his initial state-

60s and has heart problems, was taken to hospital last

Wednesday. His arrest provoked protests among politicians in-cluding Walid Junhlatt, leader of the Druze community and minister in charge of people displaced during the 1970-1990 civil war, who accused Lebanese justice of turning Mr. Malichef into a "scapegoat" in the growing scandal of waste dumping.

According to the environmental group Greenpeace, 10,000 barrels of waste are still in Lehanon where some was hurned in 1988 polluting water and soil, sold as fertilizer, and dumped at sea or in mountains northeast of

A poisoning scare which broke out with the discovery of suspect harrels last August in the Kesruan mountains spread to north Lebanon on Sunday, the day after a report on toxic waste on state television.

Inhabitants of around 20 villages in Akkar near the Syrian border alerted the authorities after realising they had used barrels similar to Mr. Malichef, who is in his those shown on television.

Palestinian television still Where Algerian élite shelter from winds of war

By Robert Fisk

CLUB DES PINS — The war

doesn't exist at the Cluh des Pins. Not on the beach, where the spray and gritty sand lash into the middleclass families in their woollen scarves and fur-lined boots and French coats; not on the promenade where lines of new Peugeots and Mercedes and BMWs stand in the evening sun. Behind the security gates below the presidential palace, row after row of new homes - villas and hastilypurchased portable buildings provide the government élite, the journalists and officials and writers of this country, with their only Shangri La, a tiny enclave of safety from the hurricane winds gusting across Algeria.

their Kalashnikov-toting policemen, outside the 9ft high walls tipped with steel and barbed wire that shield the men and women most hated by the Islamists of Algeria, cluster the afternoon day-trippers from Algiers, seeking solace in the shadow of the privileged and the wellprotected. Shopkeepers, engincers, students, designers and low-paid government workers walk the beaches. There are no veils on the women: some of them have long floating hair and transparent hlouses that show, in a sad 1970s flourish, more than a hint a hlack bras. Ask almost any of them about the war and a look of dismay and cynicism creeps into their The offical from the

Outside those gates with

nationalised Sonatrech oil company condemns the disgraceful exaggerations of the foreign press, the manipula-tions of foreign powers, the international plot which has brought "problems" to Algeria. The Algiers technicians asks why journalists want to "create" trouble for Algeria. A civil engineer criticises the political parties

- including the banned Islamic Salvation Front - who met in Rome and concluded that violence could not solve Algeria's tragedy. "It's nothing to do with do-gooders in other countries," he says, the surf washing his feet. "This should all be settled internally - you don't wash your dirty linen in public."

An economics professor playing on the beach with his young daughter also hlames the press hut concludes that Algeria's young are the country's hope. But were not the young, one wondered, the very hackbone of the Islamic vote in the elections whose cancellation started the gale force winds howling around the middle classes? "I don't trust politicians, none of them," the economist says stubbornly. "As for the fun-damentalists, they are fas-

Below the tea-house, a

group of younger men are playing football, a guard at the University of Algiers -"I search handbags," he says with unconcealed cynicism a law student, a salesman from a sports shop near the Algiers post office and a waiter who works, of all places, at the Grosvenor Hotel in London. All hut one were practising Muslims hut all condemned both the government and its fundamentalist opponents. Algeria, they all unconvincingly insisted, was experiencing the "painful transition" from dictatorship to "democracy". They fetched bottled water and cake for us, there beside the beach. hnge slabs of current and cream, traditional hospitality with no word of the terrors of Algiers. Until we asked, gently, if they had witnessed any violence. Then the boy who sells sports clothes said he was in his shop when the suicide bomber attacked the police commissariat behind

"I ran out of the shop and down the street. There were bodies everywhere, hits of

the post offce in January.



Young Algerian women pass by a burnt out car in Algiers late last year (file photo)

"I ran out of the shop and down the street. There were bodies everywhere, bits of bodies, limbs, you know!"

bodies, limbs, yon know?" And then he stopped speaking and there was silence, an embarrassment of sorts, as if the four young men were somehow responsible for this, for admitting to a fore-igner that, yes, it is all true, the violence of Algiers. The same troubled silence had followed the admission of a friend whose neighbour had been killed in the same explosion and who, at her friend's funeral, had been told of a haby's arm found in the upper storey of an office opposite the police station, "They never found out which baby the arm belonged to," she

a haby's arm?" The Club des Pins was built 15 miles from Algiers as a

conference centre in the late 1960s, in the first flush of Bonmedienne's spendthrift post-independence construction, a set of ugly rectangular atriums fit for a hundred fraternal delegations. Now the new American portable huildings are piled up around them, plastic wrapping still covering the walls in readiness for the next hattalion of frightened families, Below one set of pre-fabricated houses sat two young men, one with hippie-style long hair, the 1970s again. The family of one of them owned

a printing plant. It was a day out, he said, in the safety of the Club de Pins, where there were lots of policemen. There were the usual criticisms of the old FLN dictatorship, the impossibility of talking to Islamists, the suggestion that things had been much exaggerated ahroad. had he seen any violence, we asked?

There was another long pause. "Yes." Where? "On a road." What happened? His reluctance collapsed, "I was driving into town, down the motorway into Algiers. It was a normal day, a normal morning. And there was a body on the side of the road, just lying there in some blood. A young man, maybe 24. I don't know why it happened or who he was. I never found out," And then there was a

tough Kahyle of 39 with a pretty Russian wife, whose best friend, a girl called

Larissa, had heen shot dead in Algiers in December. "If the Islamists take over, it will be the same as it was before," he said. "One dictatorship follows another, you know. Yes, we know violence. There was my wife's friend; and the father and son of my neighbours had their throats cut at a faux barrage (a fake police check point) near Tizi Ouzou.

"My nephew was an Islamist but he agreed to perform his military services so another Islamist, one of his own friends, executed him. He was shot. They do their victims a favour when they shoot them rather than cut their throats. Yes, we have considered going to Russia to His wife said she never left

her home now for fear of being murdered. She came out just occasionally, to the safety of the Club des Pins. — The Independent.

Meeting falls short of expectations ing to the problem by deeconomic resources to absorb

(Continued from page I) of 100 families in line with the

family reunification program-me as a confidence-huilding measure.

According to these offi-cials, Israeli reservations ab-out the return of displaced persons centred around an agreement that the occupied territories were not economically prepared or had the hvsical infrastructure to absorb the newcomers.

"I believe the result was modest and there were attempts by the Israeli side to complicate the issue to prevent the activation of the article on the mechanism and modalities for the return of the displaced persons," said Mr. Kahariti.

He said the Arah side had insisted that the repatriation take place during the timeframe of the transitional period of the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles. Mr. Kabariti did not say whether Israel had agreed to this timeframe. "We hope that the next

meeting will achieve what is expected and hoped for.' said Mr. Kabariti, who stressed that peace would be meaningless without the right to return of the Palestinians scattered around in the Arab Given that the Arab par-

ties and Israel remain far apart on the very hasic question — the number of displaced persons — observers had not expected the meeting to announce immediate solutions to one of the most sensitive issues on the negotiating table. The Arah countries esti-

mate the number of displaced at around 850,000. Israel puts the number at around 200,000 and the United Nations estimates that up to 700,000 persons fall into this category.

The formation of the committees to tackle the technical aspects related to the issue of displaced persons, including the number, criteria to be used to define eligibility for repatriation, modalities for their repatriation was seen by some as a necessity to begin finding a solution to the prob-

The delegates, who were hosted by His Majesty King Hussein for a working lunch, opened the meeting at the Hashemiyeh Palace with speeches stating their positions as to the requirements for a solution to the thorny

From the onset, differences between the Arab parties and Israel over the approach to the solution were apparent. While Israel tried to sides-

tep international law pertain-

scrihing the refugees as a "humanitarian problem," the Arah parties stressed that the return of the Palestinians was a legal issue enshrined hy United Nations resolutions and international convendealing with the problem and "No normal human being could ignore the suffering of agree on the measures

the displaced regardless of the reasons ... it is a humanitarian problem." Mr. Peres told the three Arah ministers and their delegations in opening remarks. Mr. Peres did not reject

the right of return of the displaced Palestinians outright hut obviously he was not forthcoming on the prin-ciple in the closed session that followed. In response to a question about the Israel's position on

the principle of the right of return, Mr. Kabariti told reporters after the meeting: "It is a right we will pursue," indicating that Israel was not yet committed. Egypt's Musa stressed in his opening remarks that the

meeting was not being beld to discuss the principle of the right to return since it was already an established fact. "We are not here to discuss the right of return for the displaced persons or even to agree on this principle. It is

an established, existing right supported by international law and United Nations resolntions and Israel's agreement with the Arah countries," said Mr. Musa, referring to the 1979 Camp David accords with Egypt, the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles and the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

The Arah parties also nrged a speedy solution to the problem while Israel emphasised on its version of a realistic approach and warned against creating new problems by solving the plight of the displaced.
"In practical terms, we

must take care not to solve one problem by complicating existing problems or creating new ones," Mr. Peres asserted. The Israeli approach to the

meeting as an "informal consultation" clearly contrasted with the Arah quest to ensure that the meeting produced tangihle progress. The Arabs viewed the Amman meeting, the first under a 1993 Israeli-PLO peace

accord, as a formal attempt at

tackling the problem.

"We need to adopt a strategy of rehabilitation to hring about a solution that is mutually agreed upon, a solution just in character and realistic in implementation, and an agreed agenda on the scope of the problem," Mr. Peres, citing the need for security and

the refugees. He called on the international community to belp meet the infrastructure need of returning Palestinians. "We also have to deal with the regional dimension of

said, "What can you do with

and disorder," said Mr. Peres. Dr. Shaath stressed the need for a quick solution to the problem to help a deadlocked peace process.

needed to prevent disruption

"We see the speeding up in implementation as an important step in supporting the peace process that is suffering from_dangerous paralysis, said Dr. Shaath, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

That was a clear reference to the PLO's hopes that any immediate move towards repatriation of the displaced would shore up the sagging support for the autonomy "We look forward to find-

ing a solution to speed the implementation of the Oslo agreeement ... our success here would be a boost for attaining a real peace," said the PNA minister. "The return of the displaced is a right beginning to correct an historical mistake." In his opening comments. Mr. Kahariti stressed that

Jordan, which has shouldered a great financial hurden due to the forced exodus of Palestinians, attached a great deal of importance to finding a solution to the plight of displaced persons, refugees and expellees. "It is our belief that resolv-

ing such issues is an integral part and defining point in the peace process," said Mr. Kabariti. "Indeed, what gives us added motivation for finding a solution to this sensitive human tragedy is the fact that Jordan hosts the largest number of Palestinians in the diaspora, the overwhelming who carry Jordanian citizenship. Calling for a just and hon-

ourable solution to end the 'painful status quo," Mr. Kabariti said priority of the right to return should be given to displaced Palestinians who neither carry Jordanian nationality nor a temporary Jordanian pass-DOIT. Mr. Kahariti said that

"economic and financial ramifications on the host country, and the socioeconomic conditions of displaced persons in their dwellings and the effect of their neighbouring communities,' should be considered when proposing a gradual solution.



(Anti-clockwise) Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation

meeting:

сопсети.

sary measures to prevent

disruption and disorder and

Israel, the PLO, Jordan and Egypt met in Amman on March 7th, 1995, as the Continuing Committee for the purpose of deciding by agreement the modalities of admission of Palestinians displaced from the West refugees streaming back and Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necesclaiming property now owned

other matters of common THE ministerial meeting based its frame of reference on the DoP and its Annexes, and Agreed Minutes, and on parallel clauses pertaining to displaced persons in the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty, and in the Camp

David Accords. THE four parties agreed on the structure of the Continuing Committee for the displaced persons, and other matters of common concern, which would meet at ministerial and technical levels. With regard to the technical level, it was agreed that each delegation is to be composed of three permanent memhers at senior level, joined by experts as needed. The venue of the meetings of the technical committee would be by rotation. The first meeting will be convened within a month from today Thereafter, meetings will he held normally every three weeks. Meetings at the ministerial level will be held by rotation every two/ three months. The technical level will report to the

RELEVANT confidencebuilding measures shall be discussed in the Continuing Committee. THE Ministerial Commit-

ministerial level.

tee reaffirms its commitment to the speedy solution of this question to enhance the peace process.

official Nabil Shaath meet at the Al Hashemiyeh Palace on Tuesday (Photo by Yousef

Following is the full text of Rabin pledges to continue talks the final statement of the (Continued from page 1) DELEGATIONS from

to Israeli Foreign Minister Guard wounds Palestinian Shimon Peres who represented Israel at the refugee negotiations in Amman. Judith Tayar, a spokeswoman for the settlers council, said the protest was meant to dramatise fears of

by Jews.
"We wish the Israeli public to be aware of the dangers of having one million people come in, 'she said. "Although this is a dramatisation, we are taking it very seriously that a possibility like this could actually hap-

'Christopher has no new ideas'

said.

bullets.

(Continued from page 1)

not indefinitely, as Washington wants - because the Jewish state has not signed it. Israeli officials have expressed dismay at what they see as an ill-timed Egyptian

move. But U.S. officials said the two countries were working to overcome their differences, and one said: "We do not see Egypt as having adopted a hostile posture,

towards Israel. Only in Saudi Arabia does Mr. Christopher seem likely to find accord during a visit aimed at promoting Washington's aim of maintaining U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

An Israeli school security

guard shot and wounded a

Palestinian in the port city of Ashdod on Tuesday, police

A police spokeswoman

said the guard opened fire on

three Palestinians be claimed

were trying to steal his hand-

gun, wounding one of them.
"The victim's life is not in

danger," she said, adding

that the man was hit by two

other Palestinians were de-

tained for questioning, she

The guard and the two

He will meet ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which shares the U.S. view. Washington believes it bas gathered enough votes to prevail in the Security Council next time the sanctions come up for review.

King stresses need for serious work

(Continued from page 1)

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Sbaker, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, deputy

Rawabdeh and Khaled Karaki, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kahariti, Jordan's amhassador-designate to Israel Marwan Muasher and several other officials involved in the meetings.

premiers Ahdul Raouf

Al Bilad plans to sue government presented all the necessary

(Continued from page 12)

and enjoy a strong popular-

According to Mr. Amin, the two papers will resume publication after they have

papers and documents which will then be presented to the minister for approval. The minister is the one

who has the authority to grant a licence," Mr. Amin

CBJ indirectly steers interest rates upwards

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), in a continuing bid to check any significant conversion of Jordanian dinars into foreign currency, is keeping up with the rise of interest rates on the U.S. dollar hy indirectly hiking local interest rates. bankers said Tuesday.

The stability of a higher yield on dinar deposits over deposits in American dollar could also be translated into an appreciation of the Jordanian currency through a carefully-charted measure that would not adversely affect the market, some bankers say.

This week's CBJ announcement that it was auctioning certificates of deposits (CDs) worth JD 20 million was seen by the hankers as a key CBJ strategy to ensure that interest rates on deposits in dinars remain higher than the U.S. dollar.

They noted that the CBJ, since early Fehruary when the interest rates of dollars started going up in Jordan, had sought to hike the yields in dinar deposits offered hy commercial banks by releasing its own instruments that

"The prime objective of the central hank is to make the dinar attractive against the dollar and thus check deposits in dinars to be converted into the American currency through maintaining the gap between interest rates on dinars and dollars. said a leading banking offi-

The international interest rates on dollar deposits went up from around four per cent in mid-1994 to 6.5 per cent in March as the American government implemented a series of policies aimed at

posits in Jordan went up from around six per cent to 8.5 per of the Jordanian currency to

However, some hankers also believe that it is time for an appreciation of the dinar against the dollar and thus also address a problem of liquidity in the market caused hy the diversion of funds into certificates of deposits.

The bankers cite official figures that show that Jordanian commercial hanks hold about JD 5.23 hillion in deposits, including JD 1.91 bil-lion held in foreign currency.

The statistics show that credits offered by commercial hanks stand at around JD 3.32 hillion against dinar de-posits worth JD 3.24 billion" — excluding the JD 1.91 billion deposits in foreign currency - said a banking executive who deals with invest-

"Considering that 14 per cent of all commercial hank deposits have to be deposited with the central hank, the statistics elearly show that some banks have borrowed from others to offer credit to their customers," noted the executive, who preferred not to be identified

'As such there is clearly a problem of liquidity," said the executive. "The best way to address the problem is to allow for an appreciation of the dinar in a very calculated way that takes into consideration all aspects of market

According to this line of thinking, an appreciated dinar would automaocally lure dollar deposits into dinar deposits and result in higher liquidity with the commercial

The other side of the equation is an inevitable decrease in exports, which some hankers accuse others of Ignoring.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Nahulsi said late last year that the dinar could easily stand up against an appreciation but he did not want to

retain the relative attraction cause such a move would adversely affect the Kingdom's quest for export-led

monetary growth. In any case, he said, the existing exchange rate value of the dinar was clearly diotated hy supply and demand and that the CBJ did not find it necessary to intervene in the market.

Reporting the latest certifi-cates of deposits auction, Reuter said Monday that interest yields on certificate of deposits sold last week had remained nnehanged from the previous week's eight to 8.5 per cent on the three-

month paper. Yields on six month certificates were at a high of 8.50 per cent, also unchanged from a week earlier. Officials said most bids

accepted were in the lower end of the yield range.
Banks, needing cash to meet customer needs for the Muslim Eid Al Fitr feast that ended on Snnday, had less liquidity to invest in last

week's CDs. Customers withdrew an estimated JD 25 million before the four-day religious holiday that began last Thursday, hankers said.

Liquidity also was generally tighter with significant hank funds tied in longer term CDS, hankers said.

Closing day for CD bids is Wednesday, banks are told the results on Thursday and CDs are officially issued on Saturday, minimum purchases are JD 100,000. Overnight interbank dinar

rates - with more CDs absorbing liquidity — rose as high as 9.50 per cent on Monday from an average 9.00 per cent during last week, bankers say.

Repurchase agreement remained unchanged at 9.00 per cent, with some banks selling CDs to get liquidity to relend at 9.50 per cent rates.

The discount rate remained fixed at 8.5 per cent, outstanding dinar CDs are 259 million dinars (\$377 mil-

Spanish government slammed

persistent political scandals, Tuesday came under more heavy opposition fire over a devaluation of the peseta.

Opposition parties of the left and right, who in recent months have repeatedly demanded an early general election, suddenly found themselves with yet another stick with which to beat the government.

But the Catalan Narionalists, whose votes in parlia-ment give Prime Minister

WE'RE GOING TO BE GONE

FOR A WHILE SO WE WANT

YOU TO GUARD THE HOUSE

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

WELL ALL YOU HAVE

TO DO IS PUSH THE

GARAGE DOOR CLOSES

AUTOMATICALLY!

BUTTON AND THE

YES, I

DID THAT

BUT

WHAT

M'LOVÉ

the man in the street.

Mr. Rato said.

The devaluation was

days of heavy pressure on the peseta caused by weakness of

reporters in Barcelona the devaluation would not hurt Spain's economic recovery

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1995 IMF says no need for tighter market controls

COPENHAGEN (R) - In- stability of capital moveternational Monetary Fund (IMF) head Michel Camdessus said Tuesday that despite market turmoil caused by Mexico's economic crisis there was no need to set up new controls.

"There is the need to avoid yielding to the temptation, which can be brought on by panic, to return to controls and protectionist measures that would only precipitate deeper recessionary effects, the IMF managing director told delegates to the United Nations social summit in the Danish capital.

"Rather than fighting in-

ments in that way, we must strive to address their underlying causes, including weak macroeconomic and financial policies and inadequate internal controls of financial institutions." he said.

Mr. Camdessus, and World Bank Vice-President Armeane Choksi both dismissed as unworkable a plan hy a U.N. commission on funding to levy a worldwide tax on capital market transac-

The commission, set up six months ago to seek new ways of funding the debt-ridden world body, issued its first report on Monday, calling for a 0.001 per cent tax on currency deals which it said would raise \$50 million daily.

"I think it's not going to fly. I think it is a non-starter. It's a tax on speculative capital flows. Who will define what is speculative capital and what is not speculative capital?" Mr. Choksi said at a news conference.

"Governments must face the (funding) problem in a more straightforward way, Mr. Camdessus told another news conference.

Mr. Choksi said that even if the proposed tax looked like a very small amount it actually represented 20 to 30 per cent of the margins on international currency trans-

"This could have a very negative impact on private capital flows to developing countries." he said.

Commission members said full details of the tax proposal had yet to be worked out. Their report says that the U.N. needs about \$400 million per month to meet continuing costs and at the end of August 1994 had debts exceeding \$1.7 hillion. Membership arrears stood at \$3.2 billion, it added.

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"At present there is virtually no eash in the peacekeeping reserve fundamed the working capital fund...is virtually depleted," it quoted U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali as saying.

Dr. Ghali opened the week-long snmmit Monday. In addition to the financial markets levy, the report also proposes taxing air transport, deep ocean fishing and international arms sales and imposing fines on dumpers of 3 toxie waste in international

Info age is new dark age, expert tells business

LONDON (R) - The dawning information age will bring world where corporations take over from nation states and a tiny elite defends itself from dispossessed masses, a business conference was told

Tuesday. "Some people foresee a new middle ages with a natu-ral state of inequality, with urban areas protected as castles, hut electronically," said Professor Ian Angell of the Landon School of Economics, giving his gloomy view of the decades ahead.

growing value of information over all other commodities and the weakening ties be-tween hig business and any fixed place.

with "tele-working" and video conferencing, would make the office largely redundant except for largely social events for employees to bond as a community and cement their loyalties to the

crash and corporations move where profit was highest and regulation weakest, Professor Angell, an expert on social effects of information systems, told business leaders.

see themselves as owners of their staff and demand their undivided allegiance.

tive prices, he said. Mr. Farrukh demanded State and corporate police that the government impose a 15 per cent export duty on all types of finished leather to ensure availability of the raw

Turkish analysts welcome EU deal

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Tuesday welcomed an agreement with EU states on a customs union, but analysts and commentators said the country has much to do to take the deal work in its favour.

"For customs union, everything is only beginning. There are such important decisions and big steps to be taken that a delay can cause Turkey great harm," said prominent European Union (EU) analyst Mehmet Ali Birand in the Sahah daily.

Banner headlines welcomed the deal andd most of Turkey's private television stations celebrated the accord and Turkey in Brussels Mon-

But the leader of Turkey's main opposition Motherland

KARACHI (AFP) - Pakis-

tan's leather garment exports have sharply declined due to shortage of finished leather,

throwing 60,000 people ont

Exports of value-added

leather items declined from

\$256 million during the second half of 1993 to \$205

million in the same period in 1994, said an official of Pakis-

tan Leather Garments Manu-

facturers and Exporters

S. M. Farrukh said shor-

tage of finished leather in

Pakistan had raised prices

and made domestic industry

less competitive on the world

Tanners export leather to

competing countries, making

it difficult for the manufac-

turers here to quote competi-

market.

of jobs, exporters said.

Pakistan's leather

garments exports

drop; 60,000 lose jobs

fringe Marxist group opposed the deal which is expected to take effect on Jan. 1, 1996.

"Turkey plunges into a pool but doesn't know if there is water in it," Mother-land leader Mesut Yilmaz said Monday

Mr. Birand and other analysts said failure by Tur-key to meet a checklist of ohligations to the European Union would undermine potentially large gains from the long-awaited deal. He called for rapid enact-

ment of laws on intellectual and industrial property rights and a major revision of the constitution to weed out antidemocratic clauses enshrined in the 1982 charter by a militsealed by the 15-member EU ary junta then in power.

Sahah columnist Cengiz Candar said opponents of the deal feared European goods Party, the Islamists and a would flood the 60-million

material for domestic users at

He said more than 80 per cent of Pakistan's 378 leather

parment units were forced to

close because of the shortage

of finished leather. There

are, in addition, 416 footwear mannfacturers, 247 medium

and small size gloves produc-ing units and 218 sports goods

However, the Pakistan

Tanners Association (PTA)

hon square feet of finished leather was available on the

Firoz said the prices of finished leather had risen.

not only in Pakistan but all

over the world, dne to in-

creased cost incurred in im-

ing, garments, footwear,

gloves and sports goods,

made up about 70 per cent of

Pakistan's total leather ex-

Leather products includ-

PTA Chairman Gulzar

domestic market.

proving quality.

ports.

reasonable prices.

Turkish market but failed to see it also gave Turks access to a huge EU market.

The customs union will inescapably force renewal of Turkish legislation. Under cusotms union. Yasar Kemal cannot be tried on pain of jail for writing for Der Spiegel, he said.

Mr. Kemal, Turkey's most prominent novelist, is facing a jail term of five years if found guilty of advocating Kurdish separatism for an article in the German weekly.

The European Parliament, expected to endorse the customs union in October, has said it will turn it down unless Turkey removes curbs on freedom of expression and takes steps to improve its poor human rights record.

Turkey has said it is determined to correct abuses and amend its military-era constitution, hut reforms have so far remained bogged down in

Mr. Yilmaz, on a campaign

to topple Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, said her coalition government put Turkey at risk for the sake of its own prestige by signing the accord.

Late president Turugt Ozal, the founder of Motherland and Mr. Yilmaz's onetime mentor, was an ardent believer in the EU and made Turkey's hid for full membership in 1987.

The Muslim-hased Welfare Party, which would link Turkey to the Islam World and cut ties to the West, said it "will anull the customs pnion when we come to power."

This is colonial rule and capitulation." Secretary-General Oguzhan Asilturk said. "Turkey will be made the site of dirty industry and a pool of cheap labour for

Europe. Chairman of the Marxist Labour Party (I.P.), Dogu Perincek, said the trade deal paved the way for Turkey's

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARRES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good morning to talk over with regular associates how best to improve mutual affairs. Big disagreements are tactfully straightened out before going to bed. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't be hasty in a new venture.

Consider a change in procedure with a big wig but make sure you have their complete cooperation before going ahead. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan some recreational activity with good friends that will be enjoyed by all this morning. Avoid taking

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) An ideal day to improve the appearance and comfort of your home. Avoid one who has a chip on the shoulder attitude and wants you to listen to all their complaints. any risks where money is concerned.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at communications this morning that are important to your well being. An ideal day to study contracts, statements and other important documents.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put your heads together this morning with close associates and study all monetary matters and know how best to improve them. Don't overwork physically or

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Know what your personal wishes really are today, then go after them in a positive way. Do something thoughtful for pals and gain their good will in the

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Talking over matters with one you admire can bring a fine result this morning. You are able to solve a problem that has bothered your for a loog time. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have some personal wishes that are important so go after them in a positive way. This is a good day to see friends and associates. Have a pleasant

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Talk over an importaplan with a higher up and come to the right conclusion this morning and you'll get the support you need. Avoid a time-wasting associate. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make arrangements now for a mutual trip with another that you feel is important. Make new friends today with those who can give you added knowledge and

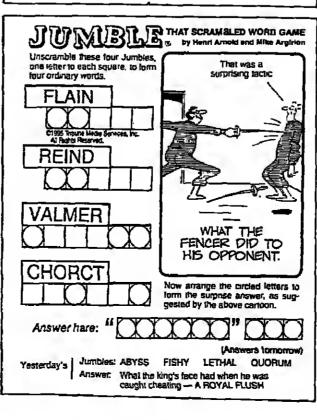
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Use your intuitive faculties more and gain your aims more easily at this time. Be more willing to please a loved one today, especially one you are very fond of and

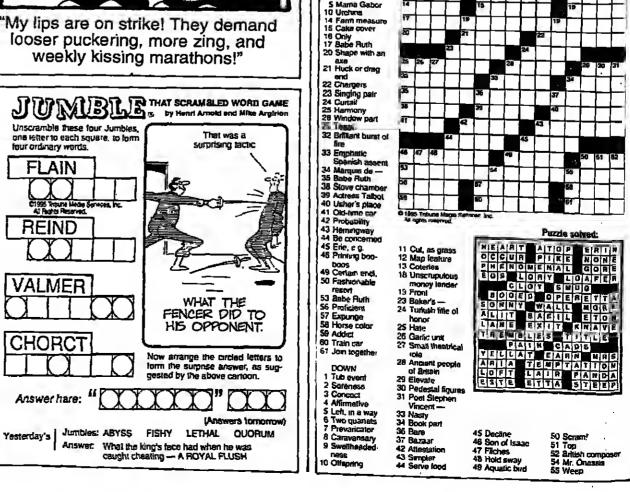
Birthstone of March: Aquamarine - Jasper

THE Daily Crossword by Stephen Floreck



looser puckering, more zing, and weekly kissing marathons!"





carry higher interest.

controlled economic growth. During the same period, interest rates on dinar de-

> Conservative Popular Party economie spokesman Rodrigo Rato zeroed in on the cost of the seven per cent devaluation to the pocket of

"Prices in the shops and interest rates will go up. People will pay more for their credit, for mortgages, if they want to huy a house. That is the price of keeping Felipe Gonzalez in government,"

the dollar. Mr. Gonzalez himself told

SHOULD I

from recession. It would stimulate exports

and tourism and, although imports generally would be dearer, key imports of petroleum products would not be affected, as they were paid for in dollars.

NO, THIS HOUSE,

chiefs

Propelling the world to such a dark future was the

Information technology.

Property prices would

Professor Angell, opening the one-day seminar on fraud and crime, said nation states would break up as regions dumped poorer areas in the fight to get global husiness, which would seek the securest haven for its information and prized "knowledge workers.

Global enterprises would

would cooperate and merge, as is already seen in parts of the United States, he said.

I DISCOVERED BARLYON

HAN HIS BODY

over devaluation of peseta MADRID (R) — Spain's be-leaguered socialist govern-ment, already hard hit hy

Felipe Gonzalez his majority, agreed at a marathon meet-ing of the European Union monetary committee after leaguered socialist govern-ment, already hard hit hy

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of economic news A review

Jordan's net foreign ~urrency deal holdings Market Ma to JD 1.85b

'*JORDAN'S TOTAL

oldings of foreign currencies t the end of 1994 amounted the equivalent of JD 3,586 nillion (about \$5,300 milon) compared to a total of D 3.249.8 million at the end f 1993. Of the total, JD 904.3 million were central rnk assets (JD 1,689.6 milon in 1993). Licenced hanks ad the equivalent total of JD . 681.9 million in foreign curencies at the end of last year ompared to JD 1,560.2 milon at the end of 1993. The . reign currency liabilities of ne banking system at the end .f 1994 stood at the equivant of JD 1,737.6 million ompared to JD 1,523.7 milon at the end of 1993. Forem currency liabilities of lienced banks were JD ,443.4 million in nonesident deposits at the end f last year (JD 1,335 million t the end of 1993). As such, he net halance of foreign urrency at the hanking sysem stood at the equivalent of

D 1,848.6 million at the end

of 1994 compared to JD

MARCH . 726.1 million at the end of

993 (Al Dustour). ⊁* THE HIGHER Organiational Council has oproved licensing 40 new plustries outside the limits of cities in various parts of he country. These industries arry a JD 120 million of estments and will employ Maria Carata (Carata) fore than 2,500 workers. The council bas intensified its ectivities by meeting three imes a week in order to streets !- lecide on the applications ***** * -- -- out to it for setting up factores outside city limits. To year. insure fast processing of apwith the region of the second commitee has been set up represent ng the ministries of municialities and rural affairs and -he environment, water and rigation, bealth, agriculare, interior as well as the · ivil Defence Department t gase of nd the Department of Land nd Survey suhmits its re-- ommendations to the counil hased on comprehensive udies and on-site checking : ith special conditions, if -ced be, attached to every

> **☆ THE JORDAN Pet**leum Refinery Company is prepared an action plan ... develop its work. The plan incentrates on organising e operations and restrucring the company's admistrative and technical work rce to maximise the commy's efficiency and the reiery's production capacity d to enable it to meet the ing demand on its products the lowest cost (Al Ra'i).

oplication (Al Ra'i).

A STUDY shows that .9 per cent of those in the gging business are females, indication that there are me people who encourage men to take begging as a siness. The study reveals it 52.2 per cent of the gars are married and lead ormal life while the perstage of the unmarried m both sexes was only 19.3 r cent. As such, the study ints out, the conditions ding to begging are unemyment and poverty or ng accustomed to such a y of living." Beggars from said category account for per cent while 16 per cent orphans, 8.3 per cent proced, eight per cent witha family head and 1.1 per t without mother care. coording to the study, 53 cent of court measures inst the beggars are not a

gars have been caught on streets more than one Greater Amman has largest number of beggars .026 (478 adults and 548 iniles) of wbom 55 were Jordanian. In Irbid, the l is 140 (103 adults and 37 niles) and in Zarqa the iber is 122 (87 adults and aveniles). The number of rars all over the country given in the study at 1 (743 adults and 668 niles) of whom 60 are Jordanian (Al Aswag).

errent as 50 per cent of the

Bahrain aluminium firm hikes production

MANAMA (R) - A second production line at Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Company (Balexco) has gone on stream, doubling output capacity to 12,000 tonnes annually, industry sources

said Tuesday.
The French firm Clecim had huilt the 6,000-tonne-ayear second line at a cost of \$9.5 million, they said. It started production in Janu-

They said Balexco was also negotiating with Clecim and e German firm to huild a third production line at an expected cost of around \$10 million. They declined to name the German firm.

Balexco produces extruded products used in manufacturing windows, doors, shop fronts, curtain walls, gates halustrading and ladders. The sources said Balexco's

hoard of directors had already approved the construction of the third line which raise its production capacity to around 20,000 tonnes a year by 1996.

Balexco huys row aluminium from the Bahrain Saudi Marketing Company (Balco), which handles aluminium sales for Aluminium Bahrain BSC (Alha), the biggest Middle East aluminium produc-

Babrain's government holds a 45 per cent stake in Balexco and private investors mainly in Bahrain and Sandi Arabia own the remaining 55

Britain taps lucrative Lebanese post-war market

BEIRUT (AFP) - Lebanon's lucrative reconstruction market is attracting more and more British trade delegations and conference on husiness opportunities in the post-war era.

The Financial Times Conference (FTC) is to bold a seminar in June for too international and Lebanese executives. Tim Kingham of the FTC said at the end of a visit last month.

The London-based Euromoney also plans an investment conference in September to focus on Lebanon's \$12 hillion reconstruction programme.

Lord Ullswater, minister of state at the British environment ministry, is to visit in April as part of efforts to encourage investments in Lebanon.

After the 1975-1990 civil war, British business was slow off the mark. It took around 18 months to develop an interest in Lebanon, moving in with such products as ice eream and industrial paint.

A hig money-spinner is whisky.

"I've never seen so many different kinds of whisky and so unhelievably cheap," said one Scottish husinessman, adding that at home he spent around \$18-\$20 for his favourite hrew hut \$7 in

In other sectors, Britain has some catching up to do. Major infrastructure contracts have been awarded to other European countries: Italy (\$626 million, electricity), Germany (\$387 million. airport), Sweden (\$305 million, telephones) and France (\$248 million, electricity and

Jordan Times Financial Markets Cairo Amman Bank



Currency	New York Close var 6/3/95	Tokyo Clase Int 1/3/95
Sterling Pound	1.6139	1.6255**
Deutsche Mark	1.4042	1,4010
Swiss Franc	1.1744	1.1705**
French Franc	1.4.9740	4.9650
Јаранске Усп	92,87	92.65
Europesa Curreny Unil	1,3128	1.3154**

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investmenty luthrest Ra	Tak		Date: 1/3	/1995
Currency	1 MTH	3 MITES	6 MTHS	11 MTIC
U.S. Dollar	5. 17	6.00	6.25	6.62
Sterling Pound	6.18	6.37	6.75	7.43
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.81	5.00	5,43
Switz Franc	3.43	3.62	3.41	4.18
French Franc	6.43	6.56	6.68	6.93
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.17
European Currency Unit	6.26	6.37	6.62	7.06

Proclams I	HOT CALLS			Date: 7/3	1/1442
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Ces*	Metal	USD/Qz	1D/Cm
Gold	378.90	7.50	Silver	4.49	0.110

Currency	2id	Offer
U.S. Doller	0.6470	0.6898
Sterling Pound	1.1157	1.1213
Deutsche Mark	0.4901	0.4926
Swiss Franc	4.5863	0.5192
French Franc	0.1579	0.1386
Japanese You"	0.7409	0.7446
Dutch Guilder	0.4368	0.4390
Swedish Krona	444414	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0416	0.0418
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Correscies	Date: 7/3/1995	
Currency	014	Offer
Oshralmi Dinar	7.8060	1.4200
Lebanese Lira*	0.041675	0.042735
Saudi Riyal	0.1829	0.1840
Kewaiti Disar	2.3100	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	9.1875	6.1887
Egyptian Pound	0.1850	0.2015
Ontanti Riyal	1.7760	1,7850
UAE Dirham	0.1865	0.1874
Greek Drachma*	. 0.2675	0.3150
Cyprics Presid	1,4575	1.5625

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the huying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday,

\$1.6238/48

1.4172/82		
1.3954/64		
1.5656/66		
1.1676/86		
28.83/87		
4.9565/15		
1636.6/1.6		
91.75/85		
7.2025/25		
6.2220/70		
5.6454/04		

One ounce of gold \$379.30/379.60

One sterling

Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

Canadian dollar

telecommunications)_

"But now we are present everywhere. There isn't a major infrastructure project in which we are not present, said Innes Rae, deputy head of mission at the British embassy in Lebanon.

'Lebanon is a reemerging market. There aren't too many around with all these opportunities and one that offers such a competent and well-organised business community," Mr. Rae said.

Britain's big success story in Beirut has been a \$33 million contract which Trafalgar House - a giant in British construction — clinched for the first phase of building

COMPANY'S NAME

ARAS BARK PIC JORDAN MATIONAL BANK JORDAN MATIONAL BANK / NEW

BANK OF JORDAN MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK. THE BOUSING BANK

BANKS SECTOR

INSORANCE SECTOR

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a sports complex.

The total cost of the project is expected to be worth more than \$100 million, to be financed through Arab grants. The project includes the construction of a 50,000seat stadium to host the June 1996 Pan-Arab Games.

Several official and private trade delegations from Britain have visited Lebanon since the end of the war and more than 50 British companies are active in the country, many of them in consul-

British Airways resumed flights to Beirut last month while a new carrier, British Mediterranean Airways,

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made its inaugural flight to Beirut — its only destination

 in October. Despite losing out on the major contracts, British firms managed to secure a \$47 millio deal to provide equipment for the electricity network.

British companies are also negotiating to supply safety and security equipment for Beirut international airport. the armed forces and internal security forces.

Consultants have struck deals with several govern-ment agencies, providing experts at all levels of Lebanon's post-war reconstruction programme.

07/03/1995

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are shortlisted to rebuild the Casino du Liban and the Lebanese University while two firms pre-qualified to huild sea-water protections

for a landfill in Beirut city The volume of trade be-

tween Britain and Lebanon has risen from £97 millioin in 1992 to about £150 million in 1994

According to AFP, a British firm has won a contract to carry out a feasibility study for a \$400 million project.

Training workshop on ISO 9000 opens

By Khattab Salman Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Out of growing interest in quality specifications for products and services in Jordan, a workshop on the issue of (ISO 9000) certification was opened Tuesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

The two-day workshop aims at providing Jordanian businessmen and industrialists with information about the International Standardisation Organisation's (ISO's) certificate of quality assurance in production and management, and the requirements to be awarded the (ISO 9000).

Since the (ISO 9000) certificate is not confined to the quality of products and services provided to consumers, hnt also covers areas like management and education, a wide spectrum of Jordanian bodies are taking part in this course ranging from the banking and industrial sectors to the governmental and academic sectors.

So far, only one Jordanian company was awarded the Geneva-based organisation's certificate, Jordan Lift Company was awarded the certificate earlier this year after a long and thorough process of inspections to make sure that products in the final shape meet international standards of quality. Being awarded this certifi-

cate means literally applying certain standarn requirements in the manufacturing process from A to Z, encompassing raw material specifications, production management, production process, safety requirements in production procedures and in the final products, and traceability, In other words, documentation of every step in the procedure.

The workshop is organised by the Arab Management Council and Abu Ghazaleb Consultations, in cooperation with Resource, a British government agency working in the field of providing de-

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in

service of applying quality assurance systems, and Neville Clarke of the United Kingdom, a private firm working in the field of consultations and quality assurance systems.

Acquiring the international "seal of approval" serves as a vehicle facilitating an easier and more professional access to international markets in the light of free market economies worldwide, and the application of the General Agreement of Tariff and Trade (GATT), which encourages and guarantees access to non-traditional markets, said Malak Annaser of Talal Ahu Ghazalah in the

opening ceremony.

She said that all export oriented companies seek to he awarded the ISO certificate due to its important contributions to building national economies based on sound scientific principles that go in harmony with international changes. She added that heing

awarded the international certificate would enable Jordanian companies to com-

pete internationally.

The workshop will cover issues like quality assurance procedures and quality management systems, prerequisites for applying the ISO principles, drawing quality policies, and the development of quality assurance procedures and systems.

The workshop will also cover issues like the development of purchasing systems, methods of defining objectives, development of function instructions, and monitoring and control of the documentation process. According to Raed Khaldi

of Abu Ghazalah Consulta-tion, a second workshop to be held next week will discuss issues of developing the skills of assessors of quality assurance systems, and will include a first hand practical knowledge of the process of quality assurance standards applications which started recently in the Jordan Lift

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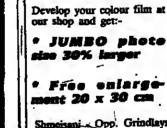
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Jordan lose to powerful titleholders, play Japan for semifinal berth today

By Omar Bashtawi in Manila and Aleen Bannayan

TITLEHOLDERS China scored an expected 88-49 victory over Jordan Tuesday in a quarterfinal match to the 13th Asian Basketball Confederation Under-18 Championship currently under way in Manila.

The defeat now means that Jordan will have to beat Japan when they meet today (Wednesday) in order to qualify for the semifinal round and play for the top four places. Otherwise Jordan will play

for 5th-8th places.
The relatively inexperienced Jordanian team who were only regrouped two months ago and are playing their first international tournament, were no match for the Chinese who average 196 centimetres and are seeking their fifth

China took a 28-6 lead and managed to expand their lead by a series of turnovers hefore ending the first half 48-13.

The Jordanians played in a more coherent and relaxed manner in the second half and managed to reduce the gap with clever penetrations by Mahmoud Sha'han and rebounding and inbounds scoring by Zeid Alkhas and Ma'an Odeh. The latter again ended the match in a buzzerbeater just as he had secured Jordan's victory in their 72-71 win over the Philippines Monday.



The second half score was 40-36 for China who also beat Japan earlier 78-

Jordan's top scorers were: Zeid Alkhas 16, Ma'an Odeh 12, Ashraf

Jordan is the only Arah country taking part in the 15 nation competition. The Kingdom's team had qualified to the quarterfinals after scoring a crushing 71-24 win over Hong Kong and 88-35 over Singapore before losing to top-ranked South Korea 75-61.

In the quarterfinals, Jor-

dan is grouped with China, the Philippines and Japan, while the other quarterfinalist group includes South Korea, Indonesia, Thai-land and Taiwan. The top two teams in each group will qualify for the semifinals. The competition concludes on March 11.

In addition to the bectic daily match schedule, Jordanian delegation officials have been attending Asian confederation meet-

Jordan will apply to host either the Asian Under-22 Championship in 1996 or

the Asian Clubs' Championship in the same year. India withdrew its hid in favour of Jordan in the U-22 race leaving only China in contention.

Jordan Baskethall Federation (JBF) Chairman Awad Haddad met with the head of the Indian delegation and agreed to set up a series of matches between the two teams. Haddad also received an invitation from the Malaysian delegation inviting the Jordanian team to take part in a charity tournament next month.

Meanwhile, JBF Deputy and Kazakhstan.

Jordan's head coaches Murad Barakat and Imad Al Saeed also attended the coaches meetings to choose the best Asian junior play-

Chairman Samir Janakat and Secretary Ghaleh Bala-'wi attended the Asian Mini Basketball meetings during which the Asian teams were divided into groups. Jordan was grouped in the West Asia Zone which includes the Arah Gulf countries, Iran

Rivalries key to future of tenni

Andre Agassi

Pete Sampras

ter this year.

funding a \$1.5 million youth

tennis programme. A plan is

underway to reduce a glut of

European tennis telecasts af-

in Sweden, which had no

player in the top 10 this

month for the first time since

1982 when Stefan Edberg fell out, Rising Swedish star Tho-

Yet there is concern even

Tennis needs new rivalries to thwart prophecies of doom. with Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras boneful of matching such legends as Bjorn Borg versus Jimmy Connors or Ivan Lendl against John McEnroe

Agassi's pursuit of world number one Sampras and the women's fight for first between Germany's Steffi Graf and Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario have hrought spark to the sport in recent months.

Ten months ago, the U.S. magazine Sports Illustrated asked the cover question "Is Termis Dying?" The sport's stars reply no, but Agassi uses U.S. baskethall players Magic Johnson and Larry Bird to illustrate his point.

"Rivalries make sports thrive," Agassi said. "Magic and Bird turned the NBA around. Our sport needs a rivalry and Pete and I can Sampras has won seven of 13 career matchups with

Agassi entering this week's ATP event in Indian Wells, California. Sampras must defend two titles this month to hold off Agassi's challenge to

his 18-month reign.

"I've handled being number one pretty well. I have stayed there a while, " Sampras said. "It's one thing to be there and another to the be there and another to stay

Differences make the U.S players logical rivals. Agassi dates actress-model Brooke Shields and thrives on the spotlight and glamour. Sam-pras found himself nervous vhen appearing on a popular U.S. talk show

"It was not really enjoy-le," Sampras said. "I would rather play in front of 18,000 spectators than do a talk show.

Some consider the problem solely a U.S. matter, but the ATP is making moves work-dwide. Michael Chang leads a programme to boost Asian tennis growth. Players are

tant to get everyone excit about tennis again."

Enqvist fights compariso
to past Swedish stars.

No one is going to be. new Edberg or new Borg, he said. "You just have to yourself and play as well

Europe remains a tem stronghold. Attendance four per cent higher last ye at European tournament an reached a record four million worldwide. This year's Arprize money will reach a ne cord \$64 million.

Women's tennis has been spared. The WTA ses Chris Evert and Martin Navratilova had-also been hit by the losses a Monica Seles to a stable and Jennifer Capriati to the stresses of turning pro to

young.
"It's important to create rivalries. That's what's lating in tennis today," Ever said. "Martina and I had 15-year rivalry. It would be good to have Graf and San chez play each other mon often. We're trying to struc ture next season so they play more often.'

Another concern is speed of the game. ATP officials are looking at ways to slow the sport indoors and on grass. Sampras points to the red clay of Roland Garros in Paris when critics say play is

too fast. "You only have to watch the French Open. They have the slowest surface in the world," Sampras said. "It's different when you play the

The French title is also the lone Grand Slam title neither he nor Agassi have ever claimed.

mas Enqvist considers Sweden's 1994 Davis Cup "Winning the French is of "Will major importance," said Sampras, who will spend two triumph vital.
"Tennis is on the way
down in Sweden," he said.
"They expect we should months in Europe before the event. The reason I am have five of the top 10 like before. But it's not possible. preparing much earlier is be-That's why the Davis Cup cause it's so important."

British racer missing for 4th day

NEW YORK (AP) - British solo racer Harry Mitchell, remained lost at sea for a fourth day Monday, as a merchant ship fought heavy seas to comb the area where his distress beacon had last been

Mitchell's emergency beacon, set off late Thursday night, indicated he was about I,450 miles (2,320 kilometres) west of South America's Cape Horn in the frigid waters of the Southern

That beacon emitted its final transmission about midday Sunday.

Mitchell, at 70 the oldest competitor in the BOC round-the-world race, was one of six sailors still completing the third leg, from Sydney, Australia, to Punta Del Este, Uruguay, Seven other racers have already finished.

The skipper from Port-smouth, England, was also sailing the smallest boat in the race, the class II, (12metre) yacht "Henry Horn-

The crew of the Francisca Schulte searched for Mitchell for the second day Monday, amid force 7 winds of 28-to-33 knots and nine-foot seas. Ship master S. Mordovin said he was conducting an "expanding square search" over a 23-square-mile area.

"My crew and I are trying to do our best to locate this hrave man," he reported hrave man," he reported Monday to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Valparaiso, Chile, the organisation responsible for search and rescue missions in

"To attract attention, we sound fog signals and fire rocket parachute flares and hand flares," he added.

The Francisca Schulte had heen 480 miles (768 kilometres) to the northwest before it was diverted.

The ship will continue searching through the night and into tomorrow," race spokesman Dan McConnell said Monday, speaking from Punta Del Este.

Fernandez beats Zvereva in Evert Cup final

INDIAN WELLS (Agencies) - Eighth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez saw her hard work pay off when she beat fourth seed Natasha Zvereva of Belarus 6-4 6-3 in the final of the \$430,000 Evert Cup Monday.

The final was originally scheduled for Sunday but

persisent light rain forced it to be postponed. Fernandez, ranked 19th in the world, beat the ninthranked Zvereva for the fifth time in as many career, meetings and recaptured the title she won here in 1993. She called her win in the 84-minute match the payoff for

he time she has put in on the practice cou "I have been working very hard and it paid off today because I was able to dictate play," Fernandez said. "My serve got me a few free points at important times and I took advantage of some of her errors. Mentally, I think I was perfect and I'm certainly pleased with the outcome.' Zvereva, who upset top seed and world number one Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain in the semifinals, had

patches of hrilliant play against Fernandez but could not sustain them. Zvereva opened a 3-1 lead in the first set with some tricky net play, but she outsmarted herself on a break

point, hitting an easy drop volley wide to lose her serve in the sixth game, which allowed Fernandez to pull even at 3-3. Zvereva said she employed a strategy — attacking all shot halls — that worked in her upset of Sanchez Vicario on Saturday, but admitted she was slightly overwhelmed by

"She played very well the entire match." Zvereva said. "My tactics were the same (as against Sanchez Vicario) but I made many mistakes at the net because I was so excited to be in the final. But I don't want to take credit from her."
Fernandez collected \$79,000, while Zvereva earned

Capriati out for Key Biscayne

Jennifer Capriati, who delayed her comehack hid by dropping out of the Australian Open, will not compete at the WTA Key Biscayne Championships, which begin next

"She is definitely not playing," WTA spokesman Jim Fuhse said.

Capriati, who missed most of the past year with personal problems, has eight more days to withdraw from the event, which granted her a wild card entry.

Fuhse said the 18-year-old player has not returned to training since an illness sidelined her from the Australian Open. Fuhse said the fln has lingered and kept her from her first tour appearance since last November.

Graf preparing to play at Delray Beach

A fit Steffi Graf is eager to restart her stalled 1995 season. However, recapturing the top spot is not a priority. Graf, the No. 2 player in the world since Arantia Sanchez Vicario unseated her from a 20-month perch as No. 1, is the top seed at this week's \$430,000 Delray Beach winter championships.

It is only her second tournament of the year after a series

of injuries. "Being No. 1 doesn't matter," Graf said Monday, after

getting a first-round bye. "I want to play more than anthing else. I didn't feel like this was the way I wanted to end my

Graf will play Spain's Maria Sanchez Lorenzo, a 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 winner over Patricia Hy Boulais on Monday. France's Nathalic Tauziat, the ninth and highest seed to play Monday, had trouble with the wind before defeating Rita Grande of Italy 7-6 (6-2), 6-2.

No. 13 seed Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico posted a 6-4, 6-2 win over Tatiana Ignatieva, while Aussie Nicole Bradtke upset 15th-seeded Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan 7-6 Graf has been bothered by an aching back since losing

the U.S. Open final to Sanchez Vicario in September. Six months of intense rehabilitation, followed by re-occurring injuries to a calf muscle, has altered Graf's perspective. "My priority now is to stay injury-free," Graf said. "If you had seen what I went through the past three or four

months, you would see what drive I h After a 12-week layoff, Graf surprised herself by winning her 86th WTA title at last month's Open Gaz de France. In the final, Graf beat Mary Pierce, the Australian Open champion, 6-2, 6-2.

TENNIS ROUNDUP

"I was stunned I played that well," said Graf, who has won the Delray tournament, formerly called the Virginia Slims of Florida, three consecutive times and five overall. Graf's stiffest competition this week should come from second-seeded Conchita Martinez, third-seeded Anke Huber and sixth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez. Even if Graf wins, she wouldn't overtake Sanchez Vicario, who along with Pierce and Gabriela Sabatini, took this tournament off. to prepare for next week's Lipton championships at Key

"I have to prove something first," Graf said. "Arantxa has been very consistent. I have to earn it. That will come in time. I won't force it."

Gaudenzi beats Fromberg

Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy overcame a slow start and a mild case of jet lag to beat Richard Fromberg of Australia in the first round of the \$1,800,000 Newsweek Champions

Gaudenzi, at number 13 the only seeded player in action on Monday, prevailed 2-6 6-2 7-6 (7-2) in one hour, 54 Top seed Pete Sampras and second-seeded Andre Agassi

received first-round hyes at the 56-player tournament, as did the rest of the top eight seeded players.

Agassi could overtake Sampras at number one in the
ATP tour rankings if he wins the tournament and Sampras

loses before the quarter-finals, according to tour officials. American David Wheaton overpowered Cedric Pioline of France 6-3 6-1 with his serve-and-volley game in another first-round match at the hard court tournament. Gaudenzi, ranked 19th in the world, played a lacklustre first set before coming alive against the haseliner From-

berg.
"I really played bad in the first set," Gaudenzi said. "I was not so aggressive and my attitude was a little negative. Maybe it was a little jet leg. But in the third set I felt good and also in the nebreak I could win."

Krajicek fit for Davis Cup

Richard Krajicek, who injured his knee on the weekend, will play for the Netherlands in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-final against Germany at the end of the month, the Ductch news agency ANP said Tuesday. Krajicek, 23, ranked 10th in the world, hurt his right knee as he lunged for a shot on match point in winning the

world indoor tournament in Rotterdam Sunday. The tall Dutchman had the knee examined in hospital on Monday and has been passed fit for the March 31-April 2

Germans set to introduce random tests

BONN (R) — Germany plans to become the first country to introduce an extensive programme of random blood tests during training in a bid to intensify its campaign to catch athletes who cheat with drugs.

German Sports Federation (DSB) vice-president Ulrich Feldhoff told Reuters on Tuesday that the federation planned around 20,000 annual tests on athletes from all major sports. The progamme is expected to be introduced in the last quarter of

the year.
"Following (scientific) reports, the DSB's anti-doping commission has put forward on the proposal to the federation's board that the tests be introduced this autumn." Feldhoff said. "I expected the board to back the propos-

the credibility of top class sport is on the line at the moment ... the situation is critical," he added.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)

and many countries test t urine of athletes during training and competition. But scientists believe blood tests an more efficient in detecting the use of drugs such as ster

Blood tests have been part of the elite "Golden four" athletics meetings in Oslo, Brussels, Zurich and Berlin :in recent seasons. But until now, no country has into atduced an extensive random: testing programme during -... training.



British jockey Simon McNeil posedives from his mount during the Doncaster races in Yar Monday (AFP photo)

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of ten Ince charged with assault at Palace

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester United and England midfielder, Paul Ince bas No. 1 Section 18 of the last o been charged with common assault oo a spectator, Scotland Yard confirmed here oo position and a second Tuesday.

Ince will join teammate Eric Cantona on March 23 when they will appear before Croydoo magistrates following an incident in United's match at Crystal Palace on January 25.

Cantona was charged on February 21 with common assault on another spectator, Matthew Simmons.

But both United and the Football Association (FA) said they wil not be taking immediate action against

FA spokespersoo Clare Timlinson saaid: "If we bad received a complaint about his behaviour at the time, we might have considered charging Paul Ince., but we did

"We would only consider charging him now if he was found guilty of an offence." Chelsea's Dennis Wise was pulled out of the England squad for last month's friendly io Duhlin after being coovicted of assaulting a taxi-

Bot Tomlinson said the simution with Ince was entirely different at the this stage and that he was still available for England's frieodly with Yogoslavia at Wembley on March 29.

She added: "Dennis Wise

14.40

File picture dated Nov. 22 1994, of Manchester United's players Paul Ince (left) and Eric Crystal Palace (AFP photo) Ince has been charged with common

was found guilty of common assault by the courts. If Paul was fouod guilty, we would bave to look at what further measures we might need to

"But at this stage he is not guilty of anything. He is free to play for Manchester United and we would never tell Terry Venables who be could select for the England

The charges follow an incident which began when Cantona was sent off during a game betweeo Manchester United and Crystal Palace.

On his way to the dressing room, Caotooa allegedly attacked Simmons with a kung-fu style kick.

Further scuffles, in which Ince was allegedly involved,

As a result of the incident, Manchester Uoited banned 28-year-old Cantona for the rest of the season and fined him 20,000.

At the end of February, an

FA disciplinary commission suspended Cantona from all football up to and including September 1995 and fined him £10,000.

Ince returns to the scene of the incideot on Tuesday night for Manchester United's Premiership match agaiost Wimbledon, who share the Selborst Park ground with Crystal Palace.

Uoited will only consider pumshiog Ince if be is found

3-pointers attempting to tie the game.— one by Sam Perkins, one by Nate McMil-

lan and two by Gary Payton.

came in the final seconds

when Paytoo stole an in-

bounds pass, but McMillan

missed a 28-footer as time

Hardaway finished with 31

points despite an ailing left wrist, which he will have ex-

amined in Los Angeles oo

Latrell Sprewell added 26

points, incloding 12 from the foul line, and Victor Alexan-

der oetted 17 for Goldeo

State, which won at Seattle for the first time since March

Detlef Schrempf scored 23

points and Payton added 19 for Seattle, which lost for just

the third time in 24 games

against sub-.500 teams.

17, 1992.

Seattle's last chance to tie

mier League inquiry which

here on Tuesday.

revealed Graham had received an illegal payment of £425,000 in connection with signings of Pal Lydersen and John Jensen. Graham, sacked by Arsen-

al last month following the inquiry into illegal paymeots involving transfers of foreign players to English clubs, bas 21 days to respond.

The Premier League was

misconduct

LONDON (AFP) — Former

Arsenai manager George

Graham was charged with

misconduct by the English

Football Association (F.A.)

The charge follows a Pre-

powerless to act on its findings against Graham but passed on relevant documents and evidence to F.A. chief executive Graham Kelly.

The charge puts Graham's future career in jeopardy as the F.A. have unlimited jurisdictioo in matters of football to impose whatever punishment they see fit.

A ban from management in England would almost certainly be endorsed by FIFA. football's world governing body, and imposed worl-

The F.A. statement read: "The Football Association has decided to charge Mr. George Graham, the former manager of Arsenal Football Club, with misconduct in relation to payments allegedly received by him in connection with transfers.

'The Football Association is still considering the evidence. It will be coodocting its own investigation. We will be io tooch with Arsenal sbortly in connection with the facts surrounding these mat-

The Premier League are investigating all transfers involving overseas players in the wake of Graham develop-

On Monday former Liverpool boss Graeme Souness started legal proceedings against the publishers of Today newspaper over a story that questions the financial details of the transfer of Dan-

ish player Torben Piechnik. Souness was manager at Antield at the time of Piechnik's move from FC Copenbagen in September 1992, the deal being arranged by Norwegian agent Rune Hauge, who was involved in the Lydersen and Jenseo

|F.A. charge | Arab Cup Winners' Championship

Graham with Faisali leave for Cairo today, play Egypt's Ahli Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordao's Al Faisali will meet Egyptian champions Al Ahli in the opening match of the 5th Arab Cup Winners' Championship which kicks off in Cairo Friday with eight teams taking part.

Al Faisali, the bolders of the 1994 Jordan Cup Winners' Cup, will be playing in Group A alongside bosts Al Ahli, Al Mustaqbal of Tunis and Qatar's Al Arabi. Groop B includes titleholders Olympie of Morocco, Al Shabab of Saudi Arabia, Kowait's Al Qadissieh and Rafah of

Judging by the results of the respective teams, Al Faisali are favoured to advance to the semifinals as they seem to have the easier group: Al Arabi are last in Qatar's championship and Al Mustaqbal are not among the top six in Tonis.

Duriog the past season, Al Faisali came in third in the Kiogdom's first divisioo championship after clinching the trophy for two consecutive years and setting a record for their 25th first divisioo'. crown. They also bold the

Wihdeh.

Al Faiseli

record for eight Jordan Cup

Al Faisali bad a training camp in Syria in preparation for the championship where they had two matches against Himik Club, a top-ranked team from Ukraioe, who were on a visit to the Syrian capital. Al Faisali woo 2-0 and drew 1-1. Al Faisali's secood lioeup also bad a friendly match with Syria's Al

The team's ace striker Jiryes Tadros who missed most of the training as he was not fully recovered from a torn ligament injury may miss the opening match if not all. The initial lineup is likely to include Anis Shafiq, Muhannad Mahadin, Firas Khalaileh, Mousa Awad, Sobhi Suleiman, Subhi Awad and Jamal Abu Abed.

GOREN BRIDGE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1-As South, vulnerable, you hold:

#96 QJ7652 952 #8
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
 Dbl Rdbl?

What action do you take?

A.—Unless someone is indulging in skulduggery, the other three hands are showing a combined total of at least 35 points, so partner isn't expecting much from you. Therefore, you can afford to jump to two hearts to show a fair six-and entity.

hearts to show a fair six-card suit Q.2-As South, vulnerable, you #963 TJ765 \ \text{9852} \ \pm\$8
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 \ \pm\$ Dbl Rdbl?

What action do you take? A.—You don't have to bid to tell partner you are weak.—North al-ready knows that. Here, you simply want to play in partner's best suit, so pass and leave the decision to North.

Q.3-Ar South vulnerable, you

bold:

#96 7J7652 952 #832
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South

Db1 Rdb1?
What action do you take?

A.—Bid on this sequence only if you have something specific to tell partner. If you pass, partner might retreat to spades, your worst suit. Bid one heart now to advise partner you are not prepared to play in any

Q.4-As South, vulnerable, you ♦AQ762 ♥94, ♦AJ104 ♣J3 The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 2 Pass
3 NT Pass 7

What action do you take?

A.—Even if partner has a maximum 18 points, slam is out of reach now that you know there's no spade fit. Don't go chasing after moon-beams. Pass and let partner declare

JOB VACANCY

International Construction Company has a vacancy for an

Analyst/Programmer Prototyper in Palestine with

Q.5-As South, vulnerable, you 10542 TAKQ72 √5 4AK4 The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

Pass 1 Pass

Pass ?

1 Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Neither a jump to four spades, nor a splinter bid of four diamonds, if that's in your armory, does this hand justice. We would start with a guiet row clubs foreign to any quiet two clubs, forcing in any methods, to see what partner does

-As South, vulnerable, you Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

4K9 J6 AKJ5 4Q9652

What is your opening bid?

A.—The problem with opening one club is you will be stuck for a rebid should partner respond one spade. You can spare yourself those worries by opening one diamond. Over a one-spade response you have an easy rebid of two clubs; over one heart you have a choice of one no trump or two clubs, with our yote trump or two clubs, with our vote going to the former.

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OneAustralia abandons plans to salvage boat

SAN DIEGO (R) OneAustralia's plan to salvage its capsized, multimillioo dollar boat, sails and mast, was abandoned on

randon : The cost of the salvage and the substantial damage likely sustained by the boat that sank during racing on Sunday reodered the attempt senseless, race organisers said.

Ross Bowler, a leading boat designer from Bruce Farr International, estimated the boat would bave hit the bottom of the ocean at 12

The reason for the failure of oneAustralia, which disappeared from view in about two minotes once it snapped in adverse winds and jough seas, can now only be pieced together through photographs, video footage and

testimooy of the crew.l OneAustralia's request for a bye from Monday's race against France 3 was refused by the international jury. The team, which had already clinched a berth in the semifinals, will spend the rest of round four re-adjusting its first generation boat and will not race again until the semi-

The teams it was scheduled to race in the remainder of round four — France 3, Sydney 95 and Tag Heuer Challenge - will have to sail the course oo each race day to score their five victory points.

A double blow to the syndicate is that the boat sank with 11 of the 35 racing sails allowed to the eod of round four — sails which represent months if not years of research and fine tuning.

Trail Blazers, Sonics lose

CHICAGO (R) — B.J. Armstrong was on, and the Portland Trail Blazers were off, adding up to a 20-point win for the Chicago Bulls oo Monday.

Armstroog, who finished with 27 points, one below his career high, scored eight consecutive points during a decisive 12-0 secood-quarter run as the Bulls ripped the Trail Blazers 103-83 for their sixth straight bome win.

Portland made just 7-of-20 shots in the second quarter, getting outscored 31-17.

"Me, personally, I just had it going tonight," Armstrong said. "I tried to be agressive out there on the floor. Ontside of our defensive rebounding, we played a very solid game, a good game overall for us." Scottie Pippen and Toni

Kukoc added 15 points apiece for the Bulls, wbo have our lost at home since January 24. "We did shoot better

tooight, which is so important for our game," Bulls' coach Phil Jackson said. "Obviously, the game was a real scrum out there with the way Portland was shooting out there, and boards were teooous for

Otis Thorpe scored 21 points and Jerome Kersey added 14 for Portland.

The Blazers shot just 38.6 per cent from the floor (32of-83) and committed 16 turnovers.

"I'm oot being smart or taking anything away from the Bulls, but we didn't play hard or well and it was a very poor exhibition of basket-ball," said Portland coacb P.J. Carlesimo. "I'm not just criticising the players, I'm in-cluding the coaches in oo

> Portland's Rod Strickland, who had missed two of the last three games with a bruised shoulder, finished with 12 points, seven re-bounds and seveo assists.

> Io Seattle, Tim Hard-away's 3-pointer with 66 secoods to play snapped a tie as the Golden State Warriors edged the Supersonics 106-103, snappiog a six-game los-

ing streak. After Sbawn Kemp missed a free throw to keep the game tied at 97-97, Hardaway's 3pointer gave Goldeo State the lead for good with 1:06 to

After Hardaway's 3pointer, Seattle missed four

Chicago 103, Portland 83 Golden State 106, Seattle 103 L.A. Clippers 101, Minnesota 88.

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☆ Case tool/Documentation/Training skills

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* Applicants are required to submit a detailed CV

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NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabla: No threat from Iran missiles

RIYADH (AP) - Saudi Arabia is not concerned by Iran's reported deployment of anti-aircraft missiles at a strategic point in the Gulf, the defence minister, Prince Sultan, was quoted Tuesday as saying. "I think that there is no real escalation with respect to the missiles that Iran is said to have deployed on its shores," Prince Sultan said, according to the official Saudi Press Agency. Washington last week reported an Iranian buildup of Hawk air defence missiles on islands in the Straight of Hormuz, gateway for a substantial share of the world's daily oil needs.

Japan to go ahead with Iranian loans

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan will not change its plan to extend the rest of its 150 billion yen (\$1.58 billion) loan package to Iran despite U.S. opposition, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Tuesday. "I've told President Clinton that it was important to give support to Iranian pacifists. There are groups seeking peace in Iran and we must not isolate the country," Mr. Murayama told reporters.

Arafat to attend Copenhagen conference

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was scheduled to attend the UN Summit on Social Development in Denmark after a stopover in Morocco, a Palestinian official said Tuesday. Nabil Abo Rudeina, spokesman for the Palestinian Anthority, said Mr. Arafat would meet King Hassan II of Morocco on Wednesday to discuss bilateral ties. He was then to fly Wednesday to the Danish capital for the U.N. summit, which is aimed at finding ways to comhat poverty in the Third World.

Rubinstein refuses lie detector test

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel's ex-cabinet secretary and chief peace negotiator with Jordan has refused a routine polygraph test for his new job as the army's legal adviser, the Jerusalem Post reported Tuesday. Elyakim Rubinstein has cited article II of Israel basic law which protects human dignity and freedom in refusing to submit to the lie detector. He was told that even the military chief of staff and secret service chiefs take the test. Mr. Ruhinstein's stand is likely to lead to a reexamination of the obligatory test for sensitive posts, the daily said.

Yemen explosion kills one, injures 44

ADEN (R) — A 20-year-old woman was killed and 44 people were injured in Yemen when a government dyn nite depo exploded, an Interior Ministry official said. The official, quoted by Yemen's SABA news agency said the explosion occurred on Monday due to the improper and prolonged storage of dynamite at a roadworks department warehouse in the Red Sea province of Al Hodeidah. The explosion damaged neighbouring homes and triggered a fire which was later contained, the agency added,

Visitor pokes doctor's eye in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) - A man poked a doctor's eye with a pen for preventing him from seeing a patient at a Kuwaiti hospital after visiting hours, newspapers reported on Tuesday. Al Seyassah daily said the 21-year-old visitor stuck his pen in the eye of an Egyptian doctor who bad repeatedly asked him to leave, inflicting "permanent decrease"?

Saudi opposition reports arrests

NICOSIA (AP) - Saudi Arabian authorities bave launched a new detention campaign of prominent scholars and theologians in Mecca and Riyadh, an opposition group said Tuesday. The London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights said in a statement that the crackdown a total figure of detainees. Among those arrested in Mecca, were Sbeikh Mohammad Al Qahtani, identified as a writer and theology instructor at Umm Al Qura University, and Sbeikh Mohamamd Ben Said Al Qahtani, a religious figure, the statement said. In Riyadh security agents apprehended Said Ben Za'ir and Sheikh Bishr Al Bishr, professors at Al Imam University, it said.

Top Islamic leader jailed in Beiglum

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Ahmad Zaoni, one of the top European leaders of Algeria's most radical Islamie group, was among those arrested in a Belgian police swoop, legal sources said here Tnesday. Mr. Zaoui, who is aged around 35, is considered by Western intelligence servicees as one of the most important Islamic extremists operating in Europe. He was among nine people arrested during the operation last Wednesday by Belgian secret police to smash a network of the Armed Islamie Group (GIA). All nine are being held in Forest prison in Brussels and could face expulsion, the sources said.

China rules out defence deal with Kuwalt

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - China has ruled out following its fellow permanent members of the Security Council in signing a defence agreement with Kuwait, a Chinese diplomatic source said Tuesday. Minister of Defence Sheikh Ahmad Al Hamud Al Sabah will pay a six-day visit to China at the end of the month. "China might only sign a military cooperation document with Kuwait... we never sign defence agreements with a foreign country. This is against nur constitution and policy," the diplomat said.

Iranian warden denies Arad held in Tehran

TEL AVIV (AP) - The chief warden of Tehran's central prison has denied that missing Israeli airman Ron Arad is being held there, an Israeli reporter said Tuesday. Hussein Pishva, head of Evin prison in the Iranian capital, was asked by reporter Menashe Amir of Israel Radio in a rare interview about claims by former German inmates that Arad was there as recently as January. "There was no such a thing. He was never here," Mr. Amir quoted Pishva as saying in the telephone conversarion Monday which lasted for several minutes and was conducted in Farsi, Mr. Amir. who works for Israel Radio's Farsi language service, said he telephoned the prison four times before Mr. Pishva agreed to speak with him. Mr. Pishva's decision was unusual considering Iran's hostility toward the Jewish state.

Banned Israeli party holds meeting in Knesset

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Militants from the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement have met in the Israeli parliament, deputies said Tuesday. Kach leader Baruch Marzel, who is supposed to be under bouse arrest, and his spokesman Noam Federman were invited to the Knesset by extreme right-wing Moledet Party deputy Shaul Gutman on Monday. Parliamentary Speaker Shevah Weiss said it was 'unthinkable" that members of the outlawed group had been allowed into the Knesset and ordered a security

Eleven car thieves to hang in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) - An Iraqi court bas sentenced 11 car thieves to hang as the authorities crack down on a crime wave sparked by the crippling effects of U.N. sanctions, the official press reported Tuesday. Eight were condemned for trying to steal two government cars which they planned to sell abroad, the daily Al Jumhuriyah reported. Three others are to hang for stealing two private cars. The ruling Revolutionary Command Council has given courts the power to impose severe punishments, including amputa-tions for thieves, in a bid to curb spiralling crime.

Iraq accuses U.S. of stirring clashes with **Kurdish rebels**

BAGHDAD (Agencies) -Iraq on Tuesday accused the United States of stirring up an outbreak of fighting with Kurdish guerrillas to torpedo its attempts to win a lifting of U.N. sanctions.

Newspapers ran banner beadlines accusing the Americans of "manipulating their agents in the north to carry out attacks on our army un-

A military communique said the army's Fifth Division had driven back an attack by fighters from Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of the two main parties in Kurdish-controlled

northern Iraq.
It said the PUK attacked the unit on Sunday night bot was driven back and suffered several casualties.

Northern Iraq has been controlled by Kurds in defiance of Baghdad and with allied protection since a rebellion after the 1991 Gulf

The army accused "members of the American intelligence service who went to the region in February" of insti-gating the Kurdish operation. Iraq has denied reports from the Kurdish opposition that it had massed its forces near the region controlled by

the Kurds and that the forces were shelling Kurdish towns. The United States spreads fabricated reports and provokes problems aimed at diverting world pub-lic opinion, from the suffering of the Iraqi people" every time the U.N. Security Council is due to review sanctions imposed on Baghdad after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the army said.

"We do not rule out the possibility of a continuation of these attacks in coming days. Our troops are in their defensive positions and have not crossed the lines" of the fighters, it added.

The Security Council is to

hold its two-monthly review of sanctions on March 13. and Washington's U.N.

> of sanctions, but would be prepared to use its veto if necessary. President Bill Clinton had anthorised her to state plainly that Washington would do its utmost to stop any "premature" move to allow Iraq to

Ambassador Madeleine

Albright said that the United

States had mustered enough

support to block any easing

story on page 2).

The state-run Iraqi News
Agency meanwhile said that Iraqi military officers "do not rule out" further attacks by the Kurds "in order to serve American objectives. It was the first time Iraq

sell oil, she said. (see related

bas confirmed its involve ment in warfare in the Kurdish enclave. Last week, Kurdish sources reported what they called the beginnings of an Iraqi onslanght following

months of fighting between Kurdish factions for control of the self-ruled area. A PUK radio station in the north accused the Iraqis of mounting an attack early Tuesday morning on the group's fighters, the "Peshmerga," in Erbil province.

"After a heroie confrontation, the valiant Peshmerga forces repulsed the enemy's attack, exploited its retreat to inflict heavy losses on it, and purged some positions that the enemy forces bad entered," the radio.

The radio station said Kurdish fighters seized seven bigh-caliber gnns, an armoured transport, three machine guns, 100 Kalashnikov rifles, 200 rocket propelled grenades and a large quantity of artillery shells.

Kurdish rebels and regional experts have warned that Baghdad may launch an offensive against the Kurds.

U.S. Christians assail Israeli steps in Jerusalem

including the president of the National Council of Catholie shops on Monday urged the Clinton administration to press Israel to stop annexing Arab land in Jerusalem. In a statement that angered

U.S. Jewish leaders, the eight asked to meet President Bill Clinton and urged him to place the question of Jerusalem higher on his agenda.
"In contravention of international law, more and more land is taken out of Palestinian hands and placed nnder Israeli control by annexation. expropriation and private

purchase, often coercive or of questionable legality," the statement said. U.S. Jewish leaders said they were surprised and saddened by the statement. Edgar Bronfman, president of the world Jewish Congress, said: "This statement harms the many advances

that have been made in Christian-Jewish relations. I am disappointed that it was issued without proper Jewisb consultation. He added the statement also undermined the peace process in which both Israel

and the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) agreed the status of Jerusalem was

WASHINGTON (R) - an issue to be resolved at the Eight U.S. Christian leaders end of the negotiating pro-including the president of the this time.

the statement were

Cardinal William Keeler. president of the U.S. Catbolic Conference and Arcbbishop of Baltimore Edmond Browning, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church Bishop Herbert Chilstrom of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, Metropolitan Phi-lip Saliba of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Kara Newell, executive director of the American Friends Service Committee and Robert Seiple, president of World Vi-

In a separate statement Bishop Keeler said he wanted to meet Mr. Clinton "for the sake of the Christian population of Jerusalem and the region, whose historic presence has dwindled so drama-

tically in recent years."
The Christian leaders did not acknowledge any special Jewish or Israeli role for Jerusalem saying Israel's claim to sovereignty preempted genuine negotiations.



Shimon Shamir on the fringes of a ministerial-level Arab-Israeli meeting on the repatriation of displaced Palestinians. The two ambassador-designates have not yet assumed office (Photo by Yousef Alian)

Somali leaders agree to reopen port, airport

MOGADISHU (Agencies) -- Somalia's two most powerful warlords bave agreed to reopen soon Mogadishu's airport and seaport, both now occupied by militias, it was

reported here Tuesday. Somalia's self-styled president, Ali Mahdi Mohammad. who controls north Mogadishu, agreed with south Mogadishu warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed to reopen the seaport on Thursday, a member of a joint port committee said.

The port is occupied now by General Aideed's men, but is within range of the guns of Mr. Ali Mahdi's forces, who control most of the adjoining neighbourhood of Bermuda.

Mr. Ali Mahdi's radio station said his militias would join Gen. Aideed's men at the port, quoting the north they were "ready to be summoned at any moment."

Sporadic shooting erupted in Bermuda Monday night, but no casualties were reported and the radio stations of both sides urged militias to respect a peace agreement the two warlords signed on

U.N. troops, who arrived here in late 1992 to halt looting of food going to famine victims and to try to bring peace to this Horn of Africa country, pulled out last Thursday under the protec-tion of 2,000 U.S. and Italian marines on shore and 8,000 troops from six nations aboard a 23-vessel armada.

They took all the essential port and airport equipment with them, promising to return it once competent authorities were in place. A Feh. 22 pact between

Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi, which came too late for a U.N. deadline, formalised an agreement to establish joint committees to run the port and airport, which had been under the control of

Many people had expected

looting and fighting over the two facilities to break out after the departure of the U.N. forces, but there have been no major incidents since U.S. and Italian marines covering the U.N. evacuation

withdrew on Friday.
Several peace pacts be-tween Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen, Aideed in the past few years came to nothing because of the enmity between the two men, contributing to the failure of the U.N. mis-Mogadishu businessmen

bave meanwhile established a committee of their own to run the port which they say is independent of the factions, but will collaborate with the committee set up by Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi.

The businessmen's committee will hire cranes and other equipment to offload els now waiting offshore one of its members said. Gen. Aideed's men occupy

the eastern section of the airport, while Mr. Ali Mahdi's militias occupy the west. They clashed Friday, shortly after the U.S. and Italian marines pulled out after exchanging fire with Somali gummen.

No date was given Tuesday for reopening the airport, which would allow expatriate aid workers to return to the

They withdrew from Mogadishu before the U.N. troops left amid expectations that the militias would fight for control of both the port and airport and fears that this might reignite wholesale clan warfare in a country where hundreds of thousands have died in fighting over the past four years.

Fierce fighting between supporters of Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aideed after the 1991 overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre reduced Mogadisbu to ruins and spllt it into two parts the north controlled by Mr. Ali Mahdi and the south by Gen. Aideed.

Council of Europe, Luis-

Maria de Puig, who admitted

that the council had been "somewhat late" in organis-

ing its North-South Centre in

1990. "If we don't aid the

development of the South,

Al Bilad plans to sue minister, official

By Sa'eda Kilani

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — The publisher of Al Bilad weekly, Nayef Al Tourah, said Tuesday he intends to take Minister of Information Khaled Al Karaki and Director of the Press and Publications Department Mobammad Amin to court for "arbitrarily using the

Mr. Tourah said he plans to sue the government for what be says were arbitrary measures and procrastination tactics used against Al Bilad. which was suspended two weeks ago along with another weekly, Hawadeth Al Sa'ah, because their chief editors were not full members of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA).

Mr. Tourah elaimed that Dr. Karaki and Mr. Amin were implementing the law in an arbitrary manner. He said he had already nominated two new candidates for the post of chief editors but both were rejected.

"Each time they come up with a different excuse," Mr. Tourah said. "They are exerting all kinds of pressure against us because we are an

opposition paper." Mr. Amin, however, dis-

missed the charges. He said Al Bilad first nominated Samira Awad but that ber application was not complete. He said she lacked a certificate from court testifying that she had no criminal record. The certificate she provided was outdated,

Mr. Tonrab's second nominee, Maher Abu Teir, works for other newspapers and could not be considered as a full-time employee qualified for the post of chief editor as the law stipulates, Mr. Amin said.

Bnt Mr. Tonrah said he did not accept Mr. Amin's explanations. He said the minister and Mr. Amin were putting pressure on the newspaper to force it to stop its publication.

Mr. Tourah claimed his newspaper lost up to JD30,000 in the past two weeks. He said he bad received assurances that the would be resolved peacefully and quickly. The newspaper last printed on

Mr. Tourah said be would file another case against the two officials to compensate for the losses. The publisher of Hawadeth Al Sa'ah, Riad Al Hroub, who said his newspaper lost JD20,000, said be would also press charges if the issue was not resolved 500n.

Dr. Hronb said he also nominated four journalists for the post of chief editor, but all were rejected for different reasons.

Al Bilad and Hawadeth Al Sa'ah used to print at Al Dustour's printing facilities. But the two weeklies' publishers said Al Dustour stopped printing the papers after they received a letter from Mr. Amin informing them of the illegal status of the two tabloids.

Both publishers said they were not able to print their newspapers anywhere else. they have wide circulation

(Continued on page 7)

Israel wants self-rule election without army pullback From Michael Jansen mains in control of the West seenrity" from "terrorist" Another speaker at the attack for every Israeli. public opening session was the vice president of the par-

in Nicosia

IN AN address to a seminar on "Europe and the Middle

East: Interdependence and Partnership," organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, which opened yesterday in Cyprus, Israeli Knesset member Eli Dayan said that Palestinian elections could be "beld this year," but only "without re-deployment" of Israeli occupation troops.

There could be no Israeli military pullout from West Bank towns and villages, in accordance with the provisions of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule agreements, because the Palestinians could not guarantee the "per-sonal security" of individual Israelis.

"Personal security" is he asserted, "the main obstacle" to reaching peace with the Palestinians. "Without facing this problem of personal security we will face deadlock with the Palestinians" meaning that the Palestinians must accept to hold elections while the Israeli army reBank.

Thus, he said, it is neces sary to "create new ideas" on how to hold this poll without the redeployment stipulated in the Oslo accord, which said that the Israeli army should "be redeployed outside populated areas..not later than the eve of elections." Mr. Dayan then appealed to the Council of Europe to

support and become involved in the election process which the Enropean Union bas agreed to finance and super-Mr. Dayan, a former mayor of the coastal town of Ashkelon, is an influential

member of the Labour Party

and is reportedly in the run-

ning for its leadership. However, if the EU and the Council of Europe agree to become involved in elections while the occupation remains, Europe would itself violate the Oslo accord, lend such elections moral credibility and give legitimacy to the indefinite continuation of the occupation on the ground that the Palestinians may never be in a position to ensure absolute "personal

This seminar was organised in Cyprus by the island's foreign minister, Aleeos Michaelides, current chairman of the council's committee of ministers, who spoke of Cyprus, both a part of Europe and the Eastern

Mediterranean, acting as a

"bridge" between Europe we will bave a massive migraand this area. tion" from the economically Mr. Michaelides stressed deprived Mediterranean the importance of the peace process ann of the council basin into the developed countries of the north, creating "a very grave situation," he said. So far, he stated, a playing an active role in its promotion. Towards this end, the working group of the North-South Centre and the "dialogue bas been realised" and "we are beginning to Council decided on Monday to open sub-offices in Nicosia and in Tunis to give the centre, which is located in Lisbon, on the Atlantic, bases in the Mediterranean. The meeting, following up the

Trans-Mediterranean sympo-

sium held in January 1994, is

part of a genuine and ongoing

attempt by the council to

forge new relations with the

countries of the Middle East

and North Africa shifting

Europe's focus from East

Europe to the southern shore

of the Mediterranean basin.

cooperate, little by little." Aristos Pavlides, vice chairman of the economic affairs committee, said that it had been agreed to hold a preparatory conference in Rhodes for a major conference in Jericho to be convened before the end of the year. The aim of the Jericho conference would be to acquaint Europeans with the Palestinian situation and to come up with concrete projects which would both demonstrate Europe's interest

in the peace process and give Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank a feeling liamentary assembly of the that some improvements could be made. Such projects would not be large-scale building schemes or ports, but small-scale projects in the fields of education and media management. The conference is being

attended by about 40 personalities including members of the parliamentary assembly, officers of the council and the North-Sonth Centre, representatives of the U.N. secretary general and nongovernmental organisations. Among the regional participants are Hanna Siniora, in his capacity as chairman of the European-Palestinian Chamber of Commerce, Jack Khazmo, publisher and editor of Al Bayader Assiyasi. PLO ambassador in Athens Massoud Gbandour, Mr. Dayan, Mndi Zanberg, another Israeb Knesset member, Salah Hannachi, director of the Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies, and Nourdeine Benomar, president of the municipality of Rabat. Although invited, Jordan was not represented.

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Boston College cancels award to Thatcher

NEW YORK (R) - Boston College, one of America's leading Catholic colleges, Monday cancelled a planned award to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher after protests from the Irish-American community. Officials at Boston College told Reuters it had can-celled the award after a call from Lady Thatcher's office saying she would be unavailable on the date of the award. "She gave no reasons as to why she would be unable to attend," college spokesman Doug Whiting said. The plan-ned award had sparked widespread criticism among Irish-Americans and last Friday New York Cardinal John O'Connor joined the protests expressing "perplexity and deep concern at the plan." Irish talk show host Adrien Flannelly, a leader of the Irish-American community, told Reuters Boston College had scrapped its plan to give Lady Thatcher its Ignatins Medal on May 5, the 14th anniversary of the death of IRA hunger striker Bobby

Angry parents kidnap teacher

MONTPELLIER, France (AFP) — A posse of parents incensed that their children's teacher was transferred and not replaced stormed into her new school and brought her back by force, education authorities said. Marie-Laure Poder, 35, a substitute teacher at the Bari School in this southern French town, was held for three bours while parents negotiated with authorities, who eventually agreed to find a replacement. Ms. Poder bad been moved to another school in the district Friday to stand in for a sick colleague. On Monday four fathers from Bari school drove over to ber new school and ordered her into their car. They drove back to the Bari school, where around 15 other parents were protesting at the education authority's failure to find a full-time replacement for their children's former teacher. Bannerwaving parents occupied the school office and started negotiations with the school authorities. They let Ms. Poder go at midday after the authorities promised to send

Teacher gags child for clapping

a replacement Thursday.

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — A nursery school teacher bound and gagged an asthmatic four-year-old boy because be was making too much noise clapping bis hands. The shool in the central England town of Birmingham confirmed that the teacher bound Nathaniel Thomas' hands and covered his month with tape. The teacher has apologised to the boy's parents and the school is to discipline him, education anthorities said Tuesday. The boy's father, Dean Thomas, is seeking legal advice. "It all began because he was clapping in class. He was playing up in the nursery unit like all the children but he is only four years old," Mr. Thomas told reporters. "The teacher could have punished him in many other ways, such as make him stand on his own in the corner. My son is asthmatic and this could have trig-

Arizona coupie wins \$101.8m

gered a reaction."

PHOENIX (AP) - An Arizona secretary and her painter-busband stepped forward Monday to claim the multistate powerball's second-largest lottery jackpot at \$101.8 million. Shirley and Don Pence matched all six numbers Saturday, but their identities weren't immediately known. The Phoenix couple said during a news conference they will retire on their winnings. "We've both worked hard all our lives and now we don't have to. I guess that means the most to us." said Mrs. Pence, who works for an insurance company. "I guess it hasn't sunk in yet."
The couple bought the ticket at a 7-cleven convenience store in North Phoenix. The jackpot is the second-largest powerball haul for a singleticket winner. The largest was \$111 million won by a Wisconsin teacher in 1993. In lotteries overall, the largest jackpot is \$118.8 million won in California in 1991.